THE TABLOID **Bridget Jones:** in praise of



THE TABLOID Fashion dos, don'ts and not-on-your-lifes



COMMENT The real challenge for Blair

ANDREW MARR, PAGE 19



older women Prison made to change 1,000 locks Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Associ-ation of Probation Officers, said:

A private prison has been forced to change all its 1,000 locks af-

in a somb that will have infuriated Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, senior staff at Blakenhurst prison, near Worces ter, refused to change the locks despite reports that prisoners had obtained a set of keys.

service was forced to invoke powers under the Criminal Justo change all its 1,000 locks aftice and Public Order Act 1994, ter the Prison Service invoked and Al Papps, the Prison Service special powers to take charge of vice's director of operations for security at the jail.

In a sink the control of the prisons in the north ordered that the locks be replaced at an

estimated cost of over £200,000. George Howarth, Labour's prisons spokesman, said he was appalled that the money had been paid by the taxpayer and not by United Kingdom Deten-

For the first time, the prison tion Services, the private company that runs the Jail.

He said: This episode shows that private prisons are prepared to compromise security for the sake of profits and the prison service is making the public pick up the bill."
The commercial cost of the re-fit would have almost wiped out the company's profits. UKDS declared a profit of £380,000 last year.

The company will have also heen anxious to avoid the

The locks at the £40m showpiece jail have already been replaced several times. On one embarrassing occasion in 1993 the then governor, David Brooke, was photographed in the local news-

paper unlocking a cell for visitors.

Blown-up pictures of his hand
were later circulated by immates in the jail so that key copies could be made. Locks had to be re-fitted at an estimated cost of £85,000. Seven months later, another 130 new locks had to be in-

stolen by inmates. The incident led to criticism of the jail by Judge Stephen Tumim, then chief inector of prisons. This time spector of prisons. This title UKDS was not prepared to pay out after an internal investigation failed to find evidence that any

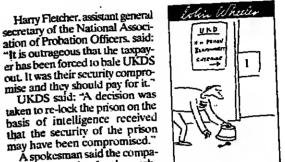
keys had been stolen or copied. An inquiry was launched last week after an anonymous tip-off, placed in a prison suggestion box, indicated that prisoners had obtained a replica key. Soon after-

elaimed that her son was being hullied by prisoners who he-lieved he had a set of jail keys and "It is outrageous that the taxpay wanted him to hand them over.

promise" and locks would have to be replaced. UKDS disagreed. After the invocation of special powers, teams of locksmiths, employed in the works offices of

out. It was their security compro-Mr Papps told Blakenhurst bossmise and they should pay for it." es that there had been a "key com-UKDS said: 'A decision was taken to re-lock the prison on the basis of intelligence received that the security of the prison may have been compromised."

A spokesman said the companeighbouring jails, were drafted in to fit the new locks. ny was not paying for the work.



Is this the woman who willrule Blair's new model Labour Party?

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Labour is preparing to break with tradition by appointing a woman as its chief official for the first time in its 100-

Margaret McDonagh, at present general election campaign co-ordinator, is being widely tipped to take over from Tom Sawyer as the next general secre-

strong rumours among Labour ranks suggest that Mr Sawyer could be rewarded for his work in modernising the party and in planning the general elec-tion campaign with a seat in the House of Lords. If he does go, Ms McDonagh is believed to be foremost among those

favoured for the succession. A former London organiser for the party now in her late thirties, she is seen as tough, amhitious and ficrocky wellorganised. She has impressed senior figures with her work on the campaign, particularly in co-ordinating work in Labour's target seats. Ms MeDonagh's sister, Siobhain, is standing for Labour in the key seat of Mitcham and Mordern, where the former Conservative minister Angela Rumbold had a

1,700-vote majority at the last election. The post of general secretary is an elected one and Mr Sawyer, a former

ty's national executive from a shortlist of four. Ms McDonagh might be favoured by many members of the committee, though, as the appointment of a woman would be felt to send a positive, modernising message to members.

positive about the suggestion, though a few hinted that they found her efficiency a little frightening. "She's very capable, she's quite steely and she runs a very tight ship," said one. Ms McDonagh, a Tony Blair loyalist.

was recently drafted in to help deliver a "charm school" to party candidates, coaching them through election factics and making sure that they were well aware of the campaign message. She was also reported to be the author of a blunt internal report which warned that Labour was vulnerable on the economy and immigration.

Labour may need to create a large number of new life peerages in order to push through its constitutional reforms, and the party leadership is looking for capable, hard-working candidates who will treat their posts as full-time jobs rather than as straight-

forward honours. Ms McDonagh could not be contacted for comment last night.



QUICKLY

Bad parenting

The most extreme cases of bac parenting would be criminalised under the latest initiative against youth crime from Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

New mini launched The successor to the world-

famous Mini was launched at the Geneva Motor Show Intensive rationing lmensive care beds for children

should be concentrated in a few large regional centres, rather than being dotted around district general hospitals, according to an expert advisory

Albania at bay In Albania, where rusty tanks rumble down the rutted country tracks that pass for major roads on a mission to break up anti-government roadblocks and intimidate Kalashnikov-toting rebels into giving up their weapons, ordinary citizens have no choice but to sit at home, knock back alternate cups of cof-

fee and brandy and wait for the craziness to pass. Page 12

Blair's peers, page 3 Margaret Major slaps down any Tory attempt to play race card

Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday slapped down a Tory backbench MP in the Commons and gave a clear signal that he will not allow the Conservatives to play the race card in the general election. Mr Major refused to con-demn Labour for promising to

abolish the "primary purpose" rule in the immigration laws, as reported in Monday in The The rule requires immigrants

to prove that a marriage was not for the primary purpose of gaining a right to live in the UK. It is attacked in an official guide to Tory candidates for the forthcoming election campaign. But Mr Major refused to go

ooto the offensive wheo urged him to condemn Labour upset the immigrant communifor threatening to liberalise the ty in the run-up to the general

Budgen said had helped to reduce racial tension in Britain.

There were cries of "you're desperate" by Labour backhench MPs, and shouts of "racist" at Mr Budgen's question. But Mr Major replied: "In the last 18 years, we have seen the most extraordinary changes and improvements in race relations in this country. That is immensely important. I certainly am not going to lend my voice or my policy to anything that would change that

improvement." Tony Blair took the unusual step of praise Mr Major for his reply. I think he deserves credfor that answer," said the Labour leader.

However, it dismayed other rightwing Tory MPs. The Prime Minister is trying to distance himfor Wolverhampion South West, self from it. He doesn't want to

reducing them, as Labour proing in putting Nick Budgen down and then Blair gave him a patronising pat on the back," said one of Mr Budgen's friends.

The Conservative Party campaign guide to be used by Tory candidates, warns in a chapter on race relations that Labour's plan to abolish the primary purpose rule and grant immigration rights to extended families "would undoubtedly lead to increased immigration and fresh abuse of the system." Mr Major's refusal to use that

formula suggests that the Prime Minister, who was brought up in Brixton, personally wants to avoid race becoming an election issue, although it was proposed by a former Tory Central Office

to go onto the attack on immi-A senior Tory source said: gration, Michael Howard, the The Prime Minister comes Home Secretary, in response to from a multi-cultural backthe Independent report, issued his ground. He believes in firm but fair immigration rules.

controls.

He said scrapping the 1996

pose, would endanger good Asylum Act would cost the taxpaver an extra £200 million a year Both Labour and the Tories in extra benefits. Labour's polihave been energetic in recent cy to drop the requirement on months in seeking the support of employers to make checks on ilthe ethnic communities in legal immigration would be "a Britain, particularly the Asian charter for the sweat shop and vote, which could prove decisive it would threaten the jobs and livin marginal seats in the Midlands. ing standards of British citi-An Asian lohby group, the Confederation of Indian Or-

A Tory rightwinger was under attack from both sides last night after describing the Prime Minister as "vindictive and unforgiving" and the Heritage Secretary as "dead from the

neck up."
David Evans, the MP for Welwyn and Harfield, also referred in an interview to the "three bastard children" of his Labour opponent at the general election and talked of "some hlack bastard" who had raped own condemnation of Labour's a girl.

Grobbelaar jury fails to agree verdict

The four defendants in the football-rigging case face a likely re-trial after a jury at Winhester Crown Court yesterday failed to agree a verdict after a 34-day trial. Judge Mr Justice Tuckey dis-

charged the nine men and three women jury after nearly 11 hours of deliberation and when it became clear they were unable to reach a verdict.

None of the three footballers the ex-Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, the former Wimbledon striker John Fashanu or Hans Segers, the former Wimbledon player -commented as they left the court room. The fourth defendant, the Malaysian husinessman Heng Suan Lim. said: "I have always maintained my innocence and I will continue to

The prosecution counsel David Calvert Smith said would be seeking a re-trial, and a decision - with advice from the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell - is likely within a few days. Players' representatives said they were concerned about the increased strain put on the footballers and

The four men denied charges that they had corruptly conspired to give or receive moncy to try to influence the outcome of football matches. They were said to have been helping to throw games so that an Indonesian betting syndicate could clean up on bets on Premier League matches.

Grobbelaar, 39, denied a separate charge of accepting £2,000 from his former husiness partner and friend Christopher Vincent as an inducement to influence a game.

Yesterday afternoon the judge told the jury that he would accept a majority verdict – a verdict on which at least 10 of them were agreed. But just before 4pm he jury passed a note to the judge saying they could not agree.

The judge asked if there was any reasonable chance they could reach a majority verdict. The jury foreman replied: "We believe so, my lord."

Later, David Hewitt, Grobbelaar's solicitor, said: "Bruce is extremely disappointed that after nearly two-and-a-half years this matter has not been put to rest." All four men were given bail. The FA and Fifa both declined to comment.

Background, page 3

We're really sorry BT

Mercury may be 20% cheaper

but we're up to

on international calls even after the latest price cuts!!!.

One minute international call to	BT from	RSL Global Phone	Save
USA	24p	10p	58%
France	29p	16p	44%
Germany	29p	16p	44%
Sweden	29p	18p	37%
Australia	49p	20p	59%
Nigeria	105p	66p	37%

Use your Global Phone Account on your home telephone (provided it's touch tone), or almost any telephone in the UK. Anytime!

To find out more about the incredible savings you can make on all your international calls, ring

RSL Global Phone 0800 074 0800

Leading article,	Par	-	_	1
		_	_	_
THE BROAD	Sł	Ł	E	1
Rusiness & Ci	ty	•	•	•
THE BROAD Business & Ci Comment	·	. •	•	•

THE BROADSHEET		. 6
		ł
Business & City Comment	17-19	Ļ
Crossword Foreign News		
Foreign News	.12-10	

Gazette	16
Home News	2-10
Home News Leading Articles	17
Leading Articles	17
Letters	16
Obituaries	

Shares	.23
Unit Trusts	.24
THE TABLOID	
Arts Reviews	.27
Bridget Jones	3
District source 11	

_	Crossword	30
3	Clossword	00.00
4	Lictings	
•	Radio & TV	31.3
	Kadlo & 14	A
7	Theatre	, • •
<u>,</u>	Weather	3
3	Meanier	• • • • • •

ganisations, is preparing to tar-

get ethnic voters in Britain with

pamphlets carrying the Tory

response to Labour's proposals

for liberalising the immigra-

tion rules. It will be used in eight

marginal seats where the swing

While Mr Major was reluctant

of a few hundred votes could

oust Tory MPs.



GPs to predict suicide risk to patients who lose benefit

Family doctors are being asked to predict whether patients would be likely to commit suicide if their sickness benefit were stopped. A new form, issued by the Department of Social Security's Benefits Agency, asks GPs to say whether there would be a

Benefits Agency, asks GPs to say whether there would be a substantial risk to the mental or physical health of their patient if they were found fit for work and becefit were terminated. "For example, risk of suicide or threat of harm to others", the form says. The British Medical Association is advising GPs not to fill in that section of the form, since it requires them to give an opinion, rather than provide information. Dr Peter Holden, deputy chairman of the association's private practice and professional fees' committee, said: "Doctors are obliged to give sickness certificates, but these are statements of fact, not prognostication. GPs should not speculate, prognosticate or give an opinion."

Woman commuter stabbed on train

A man was being questioned by police at Guidford police station yesterday after a woman was attacked and stabbed oo a train. The 27-year-old woman had been travelling alone oo the Waterloo to Guildford train when she was attacked by a man who stabbed her in the head. The attack was believed to happened late on Monday evening as the train approached Clandoo Station in Surrey. A Surrey police spokesman said she was taken to Royal

Security firm to recruit car thief

Surrey County Hospital and theo transferred to the National

Hospital in London.

A leading vehicle security firm is trying to recruit a car thief to provide it with expert knowledge on how to stop car crime.

Toad Innovations has placed advertisements in oewspapers across the country offering work to a "top-line former criminal" with a CV which includes at least one relevant convictioo. But the company says the successful applicant must be back on the "straight and narrow". It is seeking advice on its security devices, including an electronic tracking system for stoleo vehicles.

Hague and his fiancée step out



William Hague and his fiancée, Ffion Jenkins made their appearance esterday following the announcement of their

engagement, Mr Hague, who occupies the safe seat of Richmond, Yorkshire, with a majority of 23,504,

marked his political card as a 16-year-old with an impassioned speech at the 1977 party conference. Since taking over the Welsh Office in July 1995 his fortunes have prospered to the point where some regard him as a future leader of the Conservative Party. Leading article, page 17

Nurses suspended over abuse

Three nurses have been suspended and a nursing assistant has been sacked from two NHS care homes after claims they ahused mentally handicapped patients, it emerged yesterday. Another two senior nurse managers have also been suspended while an inquiry is carried out into the allegations, which centre around Farn Villa and Langdon Villa homes in Durbam.

The nurses were suspended after it was claimed that eight elderly female patients at Langdon Villa were locked in lavatories 10 days. The nursing assistant was sacked from Farn Villa in January after he allegedly cold bathed a patient.

Youngsters seize Lego flotsam

Youngsters are flocking to beaches in Cornwall where thousands of items of Lego hricks are being washed up. The bricks were on board a ship taking two container-loads of Lego from the toy giant's headquarters in Denmark to America. The ship was damaged io beavy storms in the Chancel last mooth during which boxes of the colourful toy bricks were thrown overboard.

Peugeot workers balloted on strike

Workers at Peugeot are expected to vote for industrial action today in a dispute over pay and cooditions. The 3,000 employees at the French firm's Coventry factory have been balloted on a strike and other forms of industrial action. The Transport and General Workers Unioo said the company wanted to change working hours to bring in longer shifts, earlier starts and later finishing times. Union officials say they are confident of a decisive vote for action when the ballot result is announced.

Teachers of five-year-olds

Seven per cent of the sample of bad teachers reported in yesterday's paper taught five-year-olds. The analysis did not show that seven per cent of five-year-olds' teachers are poor. The figure for nine-year-olds is 25 per cent of the sample.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

AustriaSch40	N'ands FI5.00
BelgumBFr60	italy [4,500
CananesP3300	Madera Esc325
CyprusC£1.20	Metra 43 dents
German Dodi	homes Buck
Insh Rep	Portugal Esc325
France Fr1.4	Spain Pts300
Germany DM4.5	SwedenSkr21
Greece Dr450	Setzerland . \$14.00

10.53.00 USA...... \$3.00

UE A Teise Ne FA in A FR and Teise Ne FR and

OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS As man, 13 weeks Europe 5110.76; Zone 1 (Aladie East, America, Africa and India; £184.08; Zone 2 17a East and Australiasia; £206,70. To profet, please send The surface of the former angularized Mean Server Latto 43 Milharboux, London £14 9TR or telephone 0171. 538 8288. Credit cards welcome. BACK ISSUES

Historic Newscapers, Leiephone 01988 840370.



Climber sets out to conquer the Himalayan death zone

mountaineer who has already conquered Everest and K2 plans to climb into the "death zone" six more times this year to achieve a world record. Alan Hinkes, 42, has so far climbed eight of the 14 mountains over 8,000 metres, the altitude known as "the death zone" because the body burns energy faster. than it can acquire it from the air.

He wants to climb the remaining six peaks by the end of October, if successful he will be the first person to have reached six "premier league" summits in

"Some may see me as an eccentric madman but I just want to climb mountains," he said yesterday. "I know it's going to be tough, but after preparing for this challenge for 10 years, I'm physically and mentally ready for it. "At every stage I'll remember my old maxim that suc-

cess is returning and the summit is only a bonus. No mountain is worth a life."

His first target will be Lhotse in Nepal, at 8,501m the fourth highest mountain in the world, and in June he will set off for Makalu, 8,475m, the summit of which he has twice before failed to reach. His first attempt

Four-legged

ambassador falls

victim to poisoner

Quick thinking by the wife of the Governor of Hong Kong saved the life of one of Britain's four-legged

amassadors to the colony when it

became the latest victim of a serial

While Lavender Patten (right)

walked her dogs. Winsky and

Soda, near the Governor's Resi-

dence, Whisky could not resist a

piece of chicken left lying on the

pavement. But the dog had failed to sniff out the truth - it had been

Moments later, the Norfolk terri-

er began to behave strangely, and

Mrs Patten, remembering that oth-

er Hong Kong pets had been vic-

tims of the so-called "Bowen Road

Poisoner", rushed the tiny dog to

In a letter published in yester-day's South China Morning Post,

Mrs Paten says it was thanks to

the care of the vets that "when

Whisky's small body tried to resist

the effects of the poison, we were lucky. Thankfully Whisky survived

Mrs Patten added:"I am writing

other people not to take their dogs

†The £50 discount includes VAT and will be deducted from two quarterly phone bills in instalments of £21.28 excluding VAT. *Calls are charged at national rate. Different charges apply to calls from non BT networks.

to these particular areas of Hong

now because I feel I must warn

the vet.

the ordeal."

in 1988 ended near the summit, when he was forced to turn back to help a companion, who survived a 400m fall in an avalanche. He was ready for a second attempt two years ago but he never even made it to base.

camp after his leg was injured in a fall.
Liowever, later that year Mr Hinkes was sufficently recovered to climb K2, at 8,650m, the world's second highest - and most dangerous - mountain, in Pakistan.
On his way down K2 in July 1995 he crossed paths. with Alison Hargreaves, who was on her way up the mountain which would cost her life.

After Makalu, Mr Hinkes will try to reach the sum: mit of Kangchenjunga, the world's thich highest peak at 8.586m, Nenga Parbat, the ninth at 8.128m Dhatlagiri, the sixth at 8,172m and finally Annaponia, the tenth highest at 8,078m in October.

Chris Bonington, non-executive director of Berghaus, which is sponsoring the £70,000 challering, said. The odds, especially the weather, are against him but that will make his success all the greater," he said.

The first person to climb all 14 peaks was the Austrian Reinhold Messner in 1986

Kate Watson Smyth

covered in insecticide-type poison. Kong island unless they are muz-"Be considerate - and do not leave a mess behind to give people an excuse for taking such cru-

el and indiscriminate action

against our pets." Chris Patten and his wife have been fervent campaigners for the pressure group Passports for Pets which aims to overtum Britain's

strict quarantine laws. When they leave Hong Kong in June, they are said to be considering living in the south of France for six months in the hope that the British laws will be relaxed, but aim to eventually bring the dogs

back to London.

Head to head for Heathcliffe

Two of Britain's screen heartthrobs are vying to play one of English literature leading romantic roles in a new costume drama.

Ewan McGregor, who played the heroin-shooting anti-hero in Trainspotting, and Colin Firth, who as Mr Darcy wooed viewers' hearts in the BBC's recent adaptation of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice, are both shortlisted to play Heathcliff in a new produc-

tion of Wuthering Heights. London Weekend Television plans to screen the classic 19thcentury novel as a two-hour

The tale of obsessive love was Emily Bronte's only novel. The idea of such a shocking story of passion being written by a woman caused such a stir when it was published in 1847 that she had to give herself the sexless nom de plume of Ellis Bell.

Wuthering Heights is the latest classic novel to receive TV costurne drama treatment Persuasion, The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, Emma, Moll Flanders and Middlemarch have all been screened recently.

LWT is also showing an adaptation of Jane Eyre this Sunday. Matthew Brace

Quantity of forged cash is shrinking, police say

The amount of forged money being produced in Britain has

The amount of forged money being produced in Britain has dropped by two-thirds in the last year, it emerged yesterday. Just over £10m in counterfeit sterling was seized in 1996, compared to £29m in 1995. A third of that was detected before it was used by criminals, according to the National Criminal Intelligence Service.

Many of the people responsible for producing large amounts of forged cash in the past are now in jail; claim the police Unlike drugs, the amount of forged money being produced can be gauged by police seizures because all counterfeits are eventually detected. "There is no question of counterfeit notes remaining in circulation for long as inevitably they gravitate to the retail trade," said. Detective Inspector Wayne Smith, head of specialist crimes at the NCIS.

Forgeries are not improving dramatically with new technology, as had been feared, he said. "Our experience shows that despite colour photocopiers becoming more widely available, colour copies represent 5 per cent of the counterfeit problem. Most "professional" counterfeiters continue to use traditional offset litho printing machines.

Ecstasy use a global problem

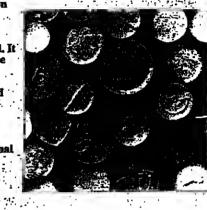
Abuse of synthetic drugs such as Ecstasy and miracle diet pills is on the rise worldwide, and countries are failing to target those responsible, a UN-funded drugs body said yesterday. The Vicanabased International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) said in its annual report that drug production, trafficking and abuse had spread to previously unaffected areas, aided by the opening up of

global borders.

While drug law enforcement had improved in some countries, with a significant rise in seizures, countries needed to focus their

efforts internationally on catching big-time traffickers, rather than small-time users and. shers, the report said. It highlighted the immense economic power of transnational crime syndicates, which it said posed a major threat to police, judiciary and . oliticians.

The INCB is the guarantor of internation drug control treaties which outlaw narcotics such as cocaine, heroit and synthetic or "designer" drugs.



INDUSTRY

Stress mounts in workplace

Workplace stress has caused a 90 per cent increase in insurance claims for mental and psychological illness over the last five years, with the medical profession and teachers hardest hit, according to a report published yesterday.

UNUM, one of the biggest insurers providing protection for employees against loss of moome, found that one in five of its claimants had been off work for at least six months because of

severe anxiety and depression. The company said that employers were becoming more demanding as working methods changed and

staff numbers were cut back.

Another study found that British employees were reporting higher stress levels than colleagues in Continential countries. The poll of 5,000 workers by the Harris Research Centre, said that a half of British respondents reported increasing stress levels, compared with 41 per cent in France, 38 per cen in Germanav. 33 per cent in Italy and 22 per cent in Spain. **Barrie Clement**

EDUCATION

Good prospects for new graduates

This year's crop of university graduates have better prospects of landing a job than those in any year since 1990, according to an annual report by Income Data Services. It forecasts that the demand for graduates will continue to increase at a rate not seen for a decade and that median salaries for graduate recruits will

rise from £15,000 to £15,442.

However, it cautions: 'A return to 1980s levels of demand is not all good news, as the survey also registered the first signs of a return to the types of labour market shortages that characterised

Research File 41, £30, IDS, 193 St John St, London EC1 4LS. Tel: 0171 250 3434.

SOCIETY

Church to address poverty

Senior officials of the Church of England yesterday accused politicians of all parties of divisive policies designed to appeal to the middle classes at the expense of those on the fringes of society, and pledged to put forward their own programme for dealing with

The Ven Douglas Bartles-Smith, Archdeacon of Southwark, said MPs must make clear how they planned to improve the lives of the "forgotten 30 per cent" - those people who were unemployed or economically mactive. "All the politicians talk about being tough on crime but they forget about that 30 per cent of people which is why there is crime in the first place," be said. The leaders of all three parties have recently said they are

Christian and as Christians we are challenging to put that faith into



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers

what a £50 discount could do for your business.

From 1st March to 6th April 1997, you can receive a 250 discount off your BT business phone bill when your company buys any make of new fax machine. Application forms are available by faxback only by phoning National all 0990 673 075. Full terms and conditions and guidelines will accompany the application form. Return

your completed form (to the address given) by 30th April 1997, giving the full business number to be credited, including the STD code and provide the original proof of purchase. Proofs of purchase will be returned within 28 days. Should you encounter any difficulties, just call the offer helpline on Freefore 0800 387 881.

To take advantage of this offer, buy your new fax mackine and ph Nationalcall 0990 673 075 to receive your application form.

Whele smarter

مكذا من الأصل

gobbelaar ti

ALC: THE STATE OF

150 B. 1 .. :: 1...

Kate Watson-Smyth

Grobbelaar trial: Crown's allegation of international match-fixing conspiracy fails to convince jurors after 34-day hearing

Football fixing claims which divided jury

Allegations of a corrupt conspiracy involving three profes sional footballers to fix Premier League football matches to help a Far Eastern betting syn- baller had "thrown" football dicate earn millions of pounds held centre stage at the Winchester Crown Court trial which ended in a hung jury yesterday.

The question for the jury hinged on whether they believed the three professional footballers - Bruce Grobbelaar, John Fashanu and Hans Segers, plus Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim, had been involved in such a conspiracy, or merely predicting results.

It was common ground between the defence and prosecution that the four had been connected to a betting syndicate in Indonesia, for which Segers and Grobbelaar were forecasting the outcomes of football

But the men denied a pros-ecusion claim that the forecasting had been the "bait to catch the fish" and ensnare. He also said that in an untaped them in trying to throw games.

. The charges were that they: had corruptly conspired to give or receive money to try to influence the outcome of football. matches - namely football rig-

ging. Grobbelaar, 39, was separately charged with accepting £2,000 from his former business partner and friend, Christopher Vincent, as inducement to influence a game. All denied the

Mr Vincent, like Grobbelaar a Zimbabwean, had been the main prosecution witness. The court heard how after the collapse of a joint business ven-

ture he had approached the Sun newspaper in September 1994 with the twin intentions of making as much money as possible and "destroying" Grobbelaarwith allegations that the foot-

The Sun had secretly videotaped meetings between the pair in which Mr Vincent pretended to have details of a new betting syndicate; during the meetings the goalkeeper is heard apparently admitting try-ing to throw matches, including one - against Newcastle - from which he was said to have made £40,000. He also claimed he had . "lost" £125,000 after his team Liverpool had drawn 3-3 with Manchester United. The Sun's report in November 1994 led to an investigation by Hampshire

In his evidence Grobbelaar, now with Plymouth Argyle, said he had been stringing Mr Vincent along, to find out who what his former friend was up to and who was behind the meetings. meeting he had told Mr Vincent that fixing matches was silly and could not be done.

The prosecution accepted that Mr Vincent, a failed businessman, had been motivated by greed in approaching the Sunfor which he received £35,000 - but claimed the tapes plus surrounding evidence backed his story. Grobbelaar had been motivated by anger at the level of his pay compared to coleagues as he neared the end of his career, an accusation the footballer dismissed.

The defence said Mr Vincent had been the "villain" of the

Apart from the tapes, and the testimony of Mr Vincent - who is due to stand trial on another matter - the main prosecution evidence was what they called the "pattern" of tele-phone calls between the defendants, coupled with evidence of "unexplained" payments -some in cash - received by the

Calvert Smith, for the prosecution, had said that Mr Lim, 31, had been the "representative" of the betting syndicate whose role was to recruit footballers to help fix matches. Gladiators presenter Fashanu, 34, now retired, had been the "middle man", said the prosecution, recruining the two goalkeepers to fix the matches. There was evidence that Segers had paid in more than £104,000 in cash to a Swiss account, Fashanu had received more than £200,000 from the Far East, from where Mr Lim had received £500,000.

The defendants admitted they had been involved in match forecasting - which is not ille-gal though it may breach Football Association guidelines - for the syndicate; but said they had not been involved in rigging any matches. The telephone calls and payments could be explained by the forecasting . Segers and Fashanu also said they had incomes from other legitimate business sources.

The defence also called expert football witnesses such as Bob Wilson, Alan Ball, Gordon Banks and Alan Hansen. None of them said they saw any evidence of attempts to let in piece in contrast with the foot- goals by the goalkeepers.



A tired looking Bruce Grobbelaar leaving Winchester Crown Court with his wife Debbie after the jury failed to reached a verdict on match-fixing allegations yesterday

Photograph: Ian Waldie/Reuters reached a verdict on match-fixing allegations yesterday

Justice system's worst nightmare

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

It is the justice system's worst mightmare - a lengthy trial, a string of expensive counsel and solicitors and costs running into hundreds of thousands of

The unenviable decision over whether to embark on an equally lengthy and costly retrial now falls to Barbara Mills QC. the Director of Public Prose-

She is expected to consult the Sir Nicholas Lyell QC, the Attorney General, whose consent had to be sought for the prosecution in the first place because it was heing brought under the Prevention of Corruption Act. But the final decision is hers.

The tests for whether a prosecution should be brought are whether there is enough evidence to support a realistic prospect of conviction, and whether the trial would be in the public interest. Retrials after hung-jury verdicts are not that uncommon, but the fact that a jury has failed to agree once on a body of evidence dictates that decisions to press ahead are taken only after careful con-

There is nothing to stop the Crown from running the second trial in a different way, but the chances of finding additional evidence are usually slim.

In high-profile cases, the fact that the issues have been publicly and extensively aired may also be a reason for concluding that the public interest would not be served by rehearsing the magain, Recent cases where juries were unable to agree include that of showjumper Harvey Smith, where the jury could not reach a verdict over an assault charge relating to a dispute with a golf course border-

Blair's lords-a-leaping ready to bring down the house

Eracles

graph at the Wild

J -- 12 3 5

 $p_{ij} = p_{ij} \in (2 + M)$

and the second

the second second

12 12 2 2 2

ير، يوايته

Darling, tout London is talking about it. They say Tony Blair might have to create 80 new life peers if he wants control of the House of Lords." Why, the quene is already half way

With the long haul almost over and a Labour victory in sight, the word on the street is that lists are being drawn up for a veritable swathe of new life peers. And there is no shortage of takers among Britain's left-wing elite.

Labour's new model anstocracy will have a job to do, of course, help-ing to push through proposed con-stitutional reforms. Some senior sources say they may have to be drafted in sooner rather than later if hereditary peers' voting rights are to

Safe to say, though, that Mr Blair will not have to look far in his

of party donors, luvvies and other

hangers on to beat a path to his door. But the Prime Minister-in-waiting should beware - the road ahead is bristling with pitfalls. What, for ex-

Mr Blair's who made a mint in independent television and who raised a tidy sum for the Labour leadership campaign? Of James Palumbo. whose Ministry of Sound night club

But wait - there are plenty of show-

biz types who support the Blair cause. And they brighten the place up no end. How about that nice Melvyn Bragg,

Edwina Currie

Melvyn Bragg

Steve Coogar

Michael Levy James Palumbo

Jack Dromey

Damon Albam from the pop

Swampy · Baroness French of Dible

Tony Booth

Barry Cox

group Blur

Blur - is a Labour man, and even Brian Clough has been seen wearing red

Well, maybe not. After all, the main qualification for these jobs is

search for worthies who are keen to sport the erinine. All he has to do is to back and wait for huge crowds for the delection effort. Of Barry Cox, an old friend of son and his staff? A tricky husiness, kicked upstairs in the past and nev-er seen again. Baroness Falkender. ennobled by Harold Wilson 23 years

ago for faithful service as his political secretary, has yet 10 make her

Poor bets: Damon Albam and Edwina Curry

Bringing up the field

in high-tiving posts, who aren't over the hill and who are prepared to give up the day job in favour of the Lords attendance allowance of £32 per day

So, how about Edwina Currie. then? Often seen in Parliament. good pro-European views. But sadly, still a Tory. Labour's Lavender List must be free from discrimination, of course - imagine the shame if Mr Blair's nominees turned out to be all male! - but that might be going too

Jamaican-born Bill Morris of the TGWU would have been an excellent choice, too. But Mr Morris has already said he still has work to do with his union and is not yet ready

to be elevated. This game is not as easy as it looks Ah, well, back to the drawing board. Did someone say Kevin Keegan was looking for work?

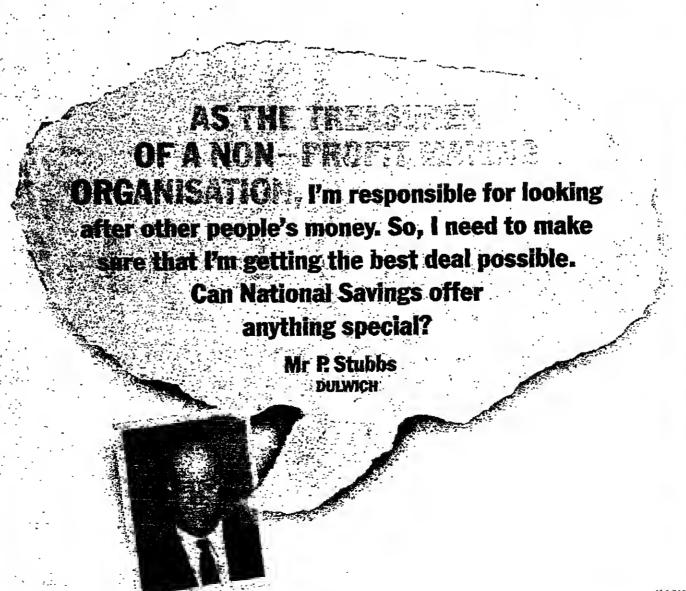
Tony's home bankers Helena Kennedy QC Boy Hatlersley Shella McKechnie Alan Howarth
Theresa Stawort
(Birplinghern Council Jeader)
Joen Lestor Sir Gelvin Laird Christopher Heskins (Chairman of Northern Diana Warwick (head of Vice Chancellors Committee) Trevor Philips (broadcaster)

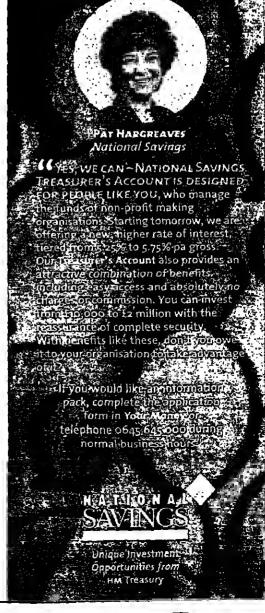
Winning votes: Helena Kennedy and Roy Hattersley





HELPING YOU MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS





KA3IN7



Water bug claims more victims

Nicole Veash

A company whose water supply has been contaminated with a microscopic parasite yesterday warned there could be further cases of severe stomach sickness, after another five people fell victim to the infection.

And French-owned Three Valleys Water admitted that they still cannot give customers the all-clear because they have not received the results of tests carried out more than 72 hours

ago. On Monday the company issued an emergency boiling water notice to nearly one million customers as a "precautionary measure "after public health officials issued a red alert when 32 people contracted a severe

The water-borne micro-organism, cryptosporidium, causes severe diarrhoea lasting up to three weeks and is potentially fatal for children and people who have deficient immune

systems.

Communications Manager
Frank Fitzpatrick said: "We be are going to be able to give people the all-clear and lift the boil notice." should have had the results

French company still waiting for test results after red alert

ing for them at the moment. Some of the tests carried out on Friday were positive, but at this stage we haven't had a complete list of results from Satur-

Five bore holes and three reservoirs, supplying water to homes in West Hertfordshire and north-west London, have heen closed down following the scare.

Dr Barry Tennison, director of public health for West Hertfordshire Health Authority, said more cases were expected in the next few days. There is between a seven

and 10-day incubation period, so I expect we will be seeing new cases later this week. "There are usually 4,000 cases each year, but we are seeing significantly more than normal

at the moment. Luckily, no-one is seriously ill at this stage. "It will be some time before

Cryptosporidium belongs to a within 24 hours and we are waitgroup of protozoa occurring in



the dung of farm animals, which with an infected person, but uncan be washed from agricultural land into nearby rivers. It is normally spread through

pasterised milk and offal also carry risks. Independent inspectors from the Drinking Water Inspeccontaminated water or contact

torate yesterday met Three Val-ley officials for the first time to carry out a detailed investigation into the outbreak.

A spokeswoman for the Department of the Environment said: "If we find that the companies have been negligent in their testing of water supplies, then we reserve the right to prosecute them."

The first confirmed cases of cryptosporidium in tap water in the UK emerged in 1989 when 500 people were affected in Oxfordshire and North Humberside.

Thames Water later offered £62,000 compensation to the 62 people who fell ill.

In 1995 an outbreak in south Devon left 575 people sick. South West Water are now facing prosecution charged with supplying water unfit for human

Philip Lightowlers, of the Environmental Data Service, said: "We may be seeing a rise in the number of outbreaks. There is a possibility that increased drought causes ground

Trade-in

water supplies to change their filtration process.
"Rather than the rocks act-

mg as a natural filtration, weaning out cryptosporidium, arched cracks may be forming allowing the organism to pass through the enlarged gaps."

A Derbyshire company claims it has the technology to

stop cryptosporidium ever oc-Memcor Ltd, which specialises in water treatment, say it can prevent similar waterborne onthreaks occurring,

The company uses Continuous Microfiltration, a mem-hrane technology which uses pores to stop contaminants from entering the water supply.

Andy Walton, spokesman for Memoor, said: "We use a straw-like flow which age as a filter.

like fibre which acts as a filter with pores which are 0.2 microns "Something like cryp-tosporidium is five microns so it naturally cannot pass through

the filter."

Britain's water companies would have to pay around £8m if they decided to invest in the latest technology to treat the country's supplies.

Mother tells of prison death

A teenager who is believed to have killed herself gave no in-dication in a final telephone call the day before her death of what she was going to do, her mother told an inquiry into the sus-pected suicides of three women at Cornton Vale prison, near Stirling - Scotland's only all-

women jail yesterday. Anne Bollan, 48, of Renton, Dumhartonshire, who was the first witness to give evidence at the fatal accident inquiry, said her daughter had always been cheerful despite fighting drug

addiction.

Angela Bollan, 19, a single mother, is helieved to have killed herself last April after being remanded for a month for reports before being sentenced for theft and contravention of bail. Six months later, Denise Devine, 26, of Edinburgh, was found dead in her cell while on remand at the prison. And on Christmas Eve, Yvonne Gilmour, 22, of Renfrew, is thought to have taken her own life while serving a three-month

sentence for shoplifting, breach

of the peace and assault.

themselves at the prison in the last 18 months.

Mrs Bollan told the inquiry at Stirling Sheriff Court that her daughter, who would have been 20 tomorrow, sought treatment for her addiction several times at units in Glasgow before she was remanded at the jail last April for the third time.

Mrs Bollan said she kept in contact with her daughter while she was on remand, writing letters and visiting her. Mrs Bollan said that on her

last visit to her daughter on 19 April 1996, she warned of the effect it was having on the

"I told her I was not coming up every single day because Stephanie was beginning to take notice of her surroundings. Angela said that was fine," Mrs Bollan told the court. She said Angela had telephoned her the day before her death and had given no indication that she was considering suicide.

The hearing at Stirling Sheriff Court was adjourned until

Amazing.

Some health plans don't fully cover surgeons' fees.



call 0800 77 99 55 now, or fill in the coupon for a no-obligation quote.

Title	First name		Servame	
Address	<u></u>			
			Postcode	
Phone rec.	STD code Day		Evening	
Date of bir	th of the eldest	person requiri	ng cover	<u></u>
		Married	Family	Sengle parent family
Cover requ	morr andre -			

Incredible as it sounds, some of the leading health insurers place financial limits on cover for surgeons', anaesthetists' and physicians' fees.

Besides this, some won't fully cover out-patient treatment such as x-rays, scans and diagnostic tests. And others offer no provision for alternative medicine.

Primecare, a policy from Prime Health, gives you all this cover as well as a no-claims discount of up to 50%. But the most remarkable thing about it is the price, which is equivalent to some companies budget schemes.

Why not call us to see how your current policy compares to Primecare?

Prime Health

store cards If you currently go shopping with one or more store cards, you'd be better off trading for a them in for a Barclaycard. Up to £150 better off. We'll take on an outstanding balance of Barclaycard and get a

 $\sqrt{150}$ refund

up to £3,000 on your currentstore - and credit - cards and cut your bill by 5%. Instantly. Check our current 22.3% APR against your store card'swe're sure you'll be impressed. What's more, you can use it at more than in million outlets worldwide! Trading in your store cards couldn't be easier. Just send for an application form and full written details or call

free on 0800 49 29 29 and

BARCLAYCARD Complete the coupon or call free any time on 0800 49 29 29

I would like to reduce my credit card bill; please send me full written details and an

application form.

Send to: Barday	card FREEPOST, E	3S 4335, Bristol, BS	T 3YX	1,241	BLOCK CAPITALS PLES
<u> Title</u>	Surname		First Name		
Address					es gire es a
				* . 1	-
			Postcode:		
[elephone				=	

ا مكذا من الأصل

Parer who fould

The Mini bounces back to life ... but not as we know it

Jonathan Glancey

The successor to the world-famous Mini was launched at the Geneva Motor Show yesterday. And, erm, that's it really

If the new bug-shaped car is, at first glance, a disappointment, this is because it has been virtually impossible for Rover, its maker, to repeat the sensation caused by the original car on its debut 38 years ago. Sir Alec Issigonis's legendary design has been in production, with re-markably few changes, ever since, and although the original Mini sells in fairly small numbers today, the car has remained a cult classic as well as a practical, if noisy, way of nipping through city traffic.

Just 10-feet long, yet seating four adults, taking a sizeable chunk of luggage, and immense fun to drive, the Mini was well-received since its insuccess. Its original manufacturer, the long defunct British Motor Corporation, was incapable of making and manufacturer. ration, was incapable of making a decent profit on the little car, even though it generated enormous pub-licity and goodwill in the early Sixties.



oxties icons: The original Mini and the new Volkswagen Seetle

Taken up by fashionable photographers (Lord Snowdon), comics (Peter Sellers), Beatles (John Lennon), racing successfully in the Monte. Carlo Rally and starring, along with Michael Caine and Noël Coward, in The Italian Job, the Mini was the car-Century, ahead of such historic and best-selling rivals as Henry Ford's Model T and Ferdinand Porsche's

From certain views the new Mini looks rather like VW's retro-Beetle which goes on sale in Britain soon. This is probably less the result of BMW's ownership of Rover than the fact that an obsession with bug-like "organic" design bas swept through motor-industry design studios over the past five years. The Ford Ka. Dagenham's new "super-mini", is clear-ly derived from the same school of design, as is the up-and-coming Mercedes-Benz city car. Graduates of the Royal College of Art's car-

design school, which has nurtured the approach for 10 years, have spread the style-language to all four corners of the auto-world. The new Mini is not especially distinctive.

For better or worse, the 1959 Mini was largely the product of one man's design skills. Issigonis's car bounced onto the road on its tiny 10-inch wheels very much as its Smyma-born engineer intended-free from compromise and the dead-hand of design committees and marketing studies. The latest BMW-Rover Mini (the

Into the future: The new Mini, as unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show

car will be branded as a Mini without reference to its makers) is the product of compromise. To an extent this is a relief: Issigonis initially refused to include a heater in the first Minis, hecause, or so this unrepentant functionalist argued, these would cause drivers to fall asleep. in competing with the "super-mini"

The raucous, anti-sleep BMC A- market. The original Mini occupies series engine that powered the Mini for many years will make way for a Chrysler engine built in Brazil.

Prototypes shown at Geneva include a five-door hatchback version. suggesting Rover is more interested

a slot in which it has become the only choice. Other upmarket bubble cars such as the Fiai 500. Datsun No00 and Hillman Imp have long since vanished. The latest car from Rover is a Mini, but not as Alec Issigonis, John Lennon and Twiggy knew it.

Parents who fail could be tagged

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

The most extreme cases of bad parenting would be criminalised under the latest initiative against youth crime from Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

Those who failed in their parental responsibilities and spurn offers of support would be at risk of a parental control order, punishable if breached by an electronic tagging order, a £1,000 fine, a probation order or removal of their driving li-Green Paper.

New inter-agency groups child-crime teams - would identify children at risk of offending, referring them and their parents, if appropriate, to a suitable local scheme to reduce the

risk of offending. The aim is to target children of 16 or under, including those under 10 who cannot be brought before the criminal courts, whose behaviour is likely to lead to offending as well as those who have already notched up convictions. Parents would be at risk of an order where the behaviour was judged to have resulted from their own lack of care and control.

But the paper, "Preventing Children Offending", found a lukewarm reception from penal experts, who welcomed its emphasis on early intervention but warned that the punitive elements would do little to reduce

Courts already possess a panoply of criminal and civil powers to deal with errant children. Mary Honeyball, general secretary of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation said: Magistrates already have the power to fine parents of. young offenders. This power is offending.

know it does not work."

Mr Howard insisted, however er, that there was a fine distinc-tion between his proposed new order, which would be subject to extensive piloting, and what had gone before. The order itself is not a criminal offence. It is a way of encouraging parents to face up to their responsibilities."

However, the criminal law would come into play where par-ents "unreasonably" refused to comply with an order, failed to , comply with conditions attached their child was at home at certain hours, or putting right damage, making an apology or cleaning up graffiti - or where the parents' behaviour clearly showed they were not exercising proper care and control over the child. The penalty of a curfew order, monitored by electronic tagging, might require the parents to "stay at home in the evening where they could keep an eye on their chil-

dren", the paper says.

Ms Honeyball said: "Fines and curfews will only increase the feeling of inadequacy. Those parents who will not or cannot take responsibility for their children are unlikely to respond to punitive measures which may increase domestic tension and result in the child being taken into care."

Paul Cavadino, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium. said: The Green Paper is a peculiar mixture of constructive ideas to prevent delinquency and punitive parent-bashing measures which will do nothing to cut youth crime. The response will often be excessive physical punishment of the child, which in turn increases the risk of aggression and further

10% off.

Irish army defuse loyalist bomb

Alan Murdock

Loyalist paramilitaries are believed to have planted a bomb containing commercial explosive in Monaghan town in the Irish Republic, close to the border with Northern Ireland.

The device, found in a yard hehind a Sinn Fein office on Monday, was the first loyalist homb discovered south of the border since the Combined Loyalist Military Command

or fax 91992 501 347

announced its ceasefire in

Gardaí suggested the crudely-made bomb, left in a plastic holdall, may have failed to go off because of faulty construction. A man living in a nearby flat heard the detonator ex plode. But it failed to set off the main bomb, which was made safe by an Irish army bomb

disposal unit. The device in Monaghan is believed to have consisted of several pounds of Powergel, a type of commercial explosive which was previously used by the loyalist UVF (Ulster Volunteer Force) in devices planted in Dublin in 1994, neither of which exploded.

A new level of detente will be reached today when Orangemen meet an Irish minister, Avril Doyle, to discuss ways in which they may be included in next year's bi-centennial celebrations of the 1798 United Irishmen's rebellion, which sought to launch an insurrection based on the ideals of the French Revolution.

BT cut 10% off calls to Germany.

5 minute weekend call to	Before Feb. 19th	From Feb. 19th	Percentage Reduction	Price with Friends & Family and PremierLine
Germany	£1.30	£1.17	10%	87.6p

The latest price cuts. Call 24hr. Freefone 0800 003 800 to see how much you could save. BT

SOME IDD PRICES UNCHANGED. DIRECT DIALLED CALLS GALL EXCLUDES BY PUBLIC PAIPHONE AND ST CHARGECARD CALLS, FRIENDS & FAMILY IS AVAILABLE ON ONE INTERNATIONAL NUMBER AND IS NOT AVAILABLE WITH THE LIGHT USER SCHEME

FRIENDS & FAULT DISCOURTS NORMALLY START WITHIN 14 GATS PREMIERLING SUBSCRIPTION IS CO PER QUARTER,

Epistles at dawn for champions of Jesus and St Paul



AN Wilson: "If it was not for Paul we would never have heard of Jesus"

A writer dismisses Christ as a minor 'Galilean exorcist', and brings down the wrath of theologians

Kate Watson-Smyth

They're calling it Epistles at Dawn and it is likely to be a hitterly fought and bloody duel. It hinges on the startling theory put forward by a former high-Anglican novelist that Jesus

Christ was not the founder of the Church; it was, in fact, his friend Saint Paul.

The author of this theory is the writer
AN Wilson who says that Jesus was simply a minor "Galilean exorcist" and just one of

many messiahs knocking around that region 2,000 years ago.

He argues that Christianity in fact owes its existence to Paul, whose vision on the road to Damascus led him to claim a new covenant and to put forward a view of Christ as Saviour

and the Cross as the gateway to salvation. This theory flies in the face of conventional Christian belief and Wilson was instantly challenged to a public debate by the Dean of Lichfield, the Very Rev Tom Wright, a Pauline scholar who claims that Wilson has got

'everything completely upside down". He said: "There has always been a lot of lively debate about Paul and his role in Christianity but really Mr Wilson has got it all

"The argument about Paul's role in the founding of Christianity has been going on for ages and serious scholars of all shapes and

sizes gave them up long ago.

There is no doubt that Mr Wilson is a

talented and elegant writer but he has got it quite wrong and he should stick to writing Wilson was unfazed by this attack and stuck rigidly to his guns: "If it was not for Paul we

would never even have heard of Jesus. "Paul brought Judaism to the Gentile world and as far as be was concerned Jesus was the equivalent of the unknown soldier. We put a lot of our thoughts into that tomh at Westminster and we have no idea who is in it and it does not really matter. In the same way,

Jesus is simply the focus for Christianity."

Dr Wright said he was worried about the harm such radical theories could provoke and

challenged Wilson to a public deba "He has always refused to debate the subject properly with me until now but I believe he has now agreed," he said triumphantly.
"I don't know where and I don't know when

hut we will have that debate." Others seemed reluctant to join the fray. A spokesman for the Synod of the Church of England said its members could not possibly enter the debate on who started the Church. There is no call for the Church of England to

have a major view on Paul so we leave all that to the theologians," he said. "The Church never takes an official position on reflections such as these - the Synod does not go in for dehate," he added

So, then, to find a theologian with an opinion on the far-reaching question of who

started the Church. James Dunn, the Lightfoot Professor of Divinity at Durham University, said that Wilson's book was just the latest in a long line of new theories.

There's a new theory put forward about every 10 years and it gets discussed for a while and then forgotten about," he said.

Canon Professor Robin Gill, of the University of Kent, Canterbury, seemed to prefer the "if it's not broken don't mend it" school of thought.

"It is in the nature of universities to pose radical questions and debate them but it is not something that should be put into the public arena as a lot of people will oot have the background knowledge and understanding to discuss it and they may find it offensive.

"If there is a coherent picture of Jesus in

the Gospels, and there is, then why not start with that. There is no need to start turning everything upside down and spending a lot of



Dr Wright: Wilson has got "everything completely upside down"

More is less.



Compaq Deskpro 2000 5133 M1620 Intel Pentium 133-MHz processor 1.6GB hard drive

16-MB memory, 256KB cache Compaq 140 14" SVGA monitor.

All Deskpro PCs have huge price reductions of up to 24%. What's more, until the end of April our special promotion prices mean you will pay even less for a Deskpro 2000 with a Compaq 140 or V50 monitor. This means if you're a growing business your budgets will now stretch to faster processors and larger hand drives.

between 8.30am and 8pm (9am-5pm at weekends). OFFER ENDS Tel: 0990 50 00 20

ECOMPAQ COSTS YOU LISS THAN CHEAPER COMPUTERS

COMPAQ

Not to mention even lower long term costs

or for promotion details call us pentium

of PC ownership. All this comes from

the number one brand in the UK for

deskhased PCs.* To take advantage

of this offer contact your reseller

Child intensive care needs concentrating

Intensive care beds for children. should be concentrated in a few large regional centres, rather than being dotted around district general hospitals, ac-cording to an expert advisory with at least eight intensive-care

The national advisory body on paediatric intensive care, said 250 beds could be concentrated in as few as 16 centres compared to the 30 main centres which now deal with intensive care for children.

The news comes as it was revealed that a three-year-old girl. flown 200 miles for hospital treatment, has died. Jodie Levy, from Doxford Park, Sunderland, was taken to the Glenfield Hospital in Leicester last Wednesday by helicopter to undergo specialist treatment

for meningococcal septicaemia. She needed specialist treatment to put oxygen into her hlood to counter the effects of meningococcal septicaemia; unable to offer such treatment.

Sources close to the National Co-ordinating Group on the Provision of Paediatric Intensive Care said it will recommend that future policy should allow for beds per centre as a minimum.

present situation, where many beds are dotted round district general hospitals. About 12,000 children are admitted to intensive care each year. The majority of units have six beds or less, though some have more than 30. The result is that about 40 per cent of children in intensive care are treated on children's wards, or in adult units, rather than in specialised units.

The group is also urging the training of more staff to specialise in paediatric intensive care, as the outcomes for children are much better where dedicated staff are treating them. "It cannot be done on a part time basis," one source nurses who work on paediatric intensive care wards have trained specifically in this speciality, though 90 per cent are

The group was expected to call for the number of those specif-ically trained to be doubled. The best results for children This would compare to the are services with dedicated medical nursing staff who have

trained to work with children.

ing," the source added. Retrieval systems should also be improved, with senior staff being sent in the ambulance to collect the child. There would need to be agreed arrange-ments with the control units over how children would be transferred. Parents should also be transferred with their children. Anthony Harrison, fellow in health policy analysis at the King's fund, said the idea "was aimed at reducing risk" but that good retrieval practices were essential if deaths were to

Ann Coffey, Labour health spokeswoman, called for more

be avoided.

sure that the number of beds was sufficient. She added that any overhaul

of specialist centres would inevitably require close inspection of primary and secondary care. The group was set up in June last year following the report into paediatric intensive care by the NHS executive which promised 30 extra beds

and called for specialist staff and greater flexibility. That, in turn, had heen sparked by the crisis of the pre vious winter, when hundreds of children in need of intensive care beds had to be turned away from major hospitals, prompting widespread criticism of goverament policy from doctors

and patients' groups. The crisis peaked with the death of Nicholas Geldard, 10, m December 1995. He suffered a brain haemorrhage at home in Stockport, Cheshire and was ferried, already hraindead to Leeds after hospitals in Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield turned him away.

Ban on creating human clones must be tightened up, MPs say

Charles Arthur Science Editor

MPs have called an urgent meeting today to clarify whether British law needs to be tightened to close a loophole that might allow the creation of human clones.

The cross-party Science and Technology Select Committee will today ask representatives of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) to clarify the position. Under the HFE Act, which became law in 1991, cloning human embryos is banned. But the technology used to create Dolly the sheep, a clone of an adult sheep, did not use an embryo. It used an

That leaves open the possi-hility that somebody might be able take cells from an adult and insert them into unfertilised egg cells and try to produce a clone. If the cells were taken with consent from an adult woman, she might also provide

the egg cells, opening up the

odd possibility that somebody

could lawfully clone themselves. The HFEA's confidence was dented by the recent decision of the Appeal Court to overturn its han on the use by the wid-ow Diane Blood of sperm tak-en from her husband while he was in a coma. Although the Act had been thought watertight, it was breached there. MPs fear something similar could happen with cloning.

"It's a legal question that we

can get out of the way by talk-ing to them," said Dr Jeremy Bray, a Labour member of the committee vesterday.

Tomorrow, the committee will question representatives of the teams who did the hreakthrough research at the Roslin Institute and PPL Therapeutics in Scotland.

Despite the brief period remaining until Parliament is dissolved for the general election, the committee plans to rush out a report on cloning. "We had to move quickly," said Dr Bray.

The reverberations from the Scottish work continue to spread. President Bill Clinton yesterday banned the use of US government funds for human cloning experiments, warning that humanity should "resist the

President Clinton asked for a voluntary moratorium on human cloning experiments in the US, at least until the legal and ethical issues can be sort-ed out. Since privately funded scientists are not covered by his directive, he said only a voluntary moratorium would ensure ethical issues are fully debated.

Researchers in Oregon who last year cloned monkey emhryos said they had no desire to reproduce a human.

Mr Clinton said there was a need to resolve the desire to use raising the kind of ethical implications that, in effect, we're m the business where people are trying to play God".



Pre payment of £25 entitles you to £25 of Swiftcall talktime.

That's over 4 hrs to the USA. Access to our network is easy. All you need is a touch tone phone to call our international exchange FREE from anywhere in the U.K.

> CALL US NOW For information en hundreds of other destinations and to open an account

FREEPHONE 0800 769 0000 Please ask for extension 526

مكذا من الأصل

1.00

11 1 m T-1-12

In Minne

Transport

ing to Gerry Adams, \$1

- 27 Table 1981

Police to seek missing Manics lyricist in Goa

Interpol, the international police organisation, is to be alert-ed about a possible sighting in India of Richey Edwards, the missing member of the Manic Street Preacher rock group.

Detectives from Scotland Yard have questioned Viv Morris, a lecturer in media studies at Neath College in South Wales, who believes he saw the missing musician at a market in the holiday region of Goa. They believe Mr Morris is a reliable witness and are taking his report

Interpol and the Indian police are to be given descriptions and photographs of Mr Edwards who wrote lyrics and played guitar for the award winning Welsh band, before disappearing, aged 28, in February 1995 while being treated

His passport and credit cards were found in his flat in Cardiff and, two weeks later, his car was found at Aust service station, next to the M4. Its car park overlooks the Severn Bridge and is a favourite spot for suicides. However, his body has not been found, prompting claims by many of his fans that he may still be alive.

A spokeswoman for the Manic Street Preachers said vesterday: "Everyone is very upset by these reports. We are concerned [about Richey] the



friend of the band. There have been a number of sightings and the whole thing upsets a lot of people." She added that the members of the band did not want to comment.

Mr Morris, who said he was "seven-and-a-half out of 10" convinced the man he saw was the musician, said he now regrets the fuss his claim has caused. He saw a man with long hair who looked like Mr Edwards last November. A stranger said that he was called "Rich" and had arrived in Goa about 18 months before.

Mr Morris told BBC Radio 4's Today programme he had mentioned the sighting in passing during an interview, and the matter had been "seized on". He was now concerned about the "palaver and distress" caused to Mr Edwards' parents. He added

worked so hard to gain this anonymity to be left alone. A spokesman from Scotland Yard said; "We questioned Mr Morris on Monday. We are fairly confident this is a serious report. The sighting was made in November last year so where the person it now is hard to say. The indications are that it is a

محدا من الأصل

positive lead." He stressed that Mr Edwards was not wanted for any criminal activity. "He might be marked down as a vulnerable person and we would want to see that he was OK."

The controversy comes a week after his former group won best band and best album in the music industry's Brit awards. Mr Edwards' parents, who live in Blackwood, Gwent, are said to share his fans' optimism and have clung to sporadic sightings of their son, which have been reported in Germany, New York, Bedfordshire

and Worcestershire.



sking music: long Cultart, 17, and Charles Rice, 16, choristers with the Chapel Choir of The King's School, Canterbury, school's ancient Memorial Court in edvance of the choir's concert at St Juhn's, Smith Square, in Lundon last night

New train order signals advance of privatisation

Transport Correspondent

The first major order for new trains since Britain's railways were privatised was announced

London Tilbury Southend, which runs commuter services between London and Essext, placed a 44-train order with Derby-based Adtranz LTS, taken over hy Prism last year, had been dubbed Britain's "misery line" by passengers forced to use the company's creaking 30-year-old slam-door carriages.

The new 100mph sliding-door trains are superior to the

door trains are superior to the older carriages. Equipped with air conditioning and wider sears, they have electronic information boards in every carriage. They should be in service by 1999 and managers predict that they will cut journey times by 10 per cent.

"The new trains will offer a

vast improvement for passen-gers and are of the very latest design," said Bob Howells, LTS

Chairman.

The privatisation of British
Rail saw a collapse in the trainbuilding market. In the five
years before its sale. BR bought

by Thomas McCarthy

DAILY POEM

Talking to Gerry Adams, 1994

We are three floors above your foot-soldiers, which is the right of those who exchange ideas. We know nothing about fuses: we detonate opinions and views. Your handsome face (the face of Sean Moylan in Keating's Men of the South), has no pain visible to me. It has absorbed politics, and fiving columns of documents.

Today it's the "productive atmosphere of peace" after war. I find myself switching sides already. Maybe this is what poets are for in a destitute time. To stay apart from the Dail. Thioking finds a Protestant in me; and Ulster, an autonomous region of the heart.

SAVE 50% MORE

LONDON & HOME COUNTIES £100,000 Buildings Sum Insured

Premium Only £154.00

This poem comes from The Lost Province, the latest collection by Cork-based writer Thomas McCarthy. The volume's tion by Cork-based writer Thomas McCarthy. The volume's tion by Cork-based writer Thomas McCarthy. The volume's tion by Cork-based writer Thomas McCarthy. The Northern Irish cease title sequence reflects the experience of the Northern Irish cease title sequence of 1993 to 1994. The Lost Province is published by Airvil Press, price 17.95.

HOUSE INSURANCE

whereas privatisation has seen only 12 new carriages ordered by a private operator - Chiltern.
This is great news for our

company and we hope it will signal the start of a new rail revolution in the UK and growth in the industry," said Sig Svard, the company's UK chief executive. A company spokeswoman said the order "was likely to lead to new jobs."

woman said the order was likely to lead to new jobs."

The company had as many as 6,000 employees in the late 1980s. But with orders drying up, numbers at Derby have dwindled to about 1,000.

Private firms have promised much but delivered little, in re-

much, but delivered little, in return for the chance to run the nation's train set. National Express, which operates Gatwick Express franchise, is poised to buy eight new trains and French firm Connex are also set to invest in more than 100 trains for its Fart convention. its Kent commuter services.

its Kent commuter services.

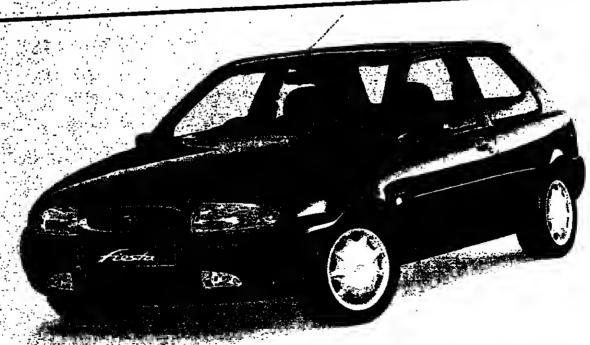
Sir George Young, the Secretary of State for Transport, said: "This is good news for British moustry and is further evidence of the benefits which rail privatisation is bringing to rail passengers."

For high fliers and the seriously chic.



Fiesta Flight from £155.80 per month on the road 10% APR.

(Plus deposit and optional final purchase payment.)



Fiesta Chicane from £171.91 per month on the road 9.9% APR.

(Plus deposit and optional final purchase payment.)



- Tilting & removable sunroof
- Power steering
- Central locking
- Power front windows
- Remote tailgate release
- Body colour bumpers
- Tinted glass
- 165/70 R13 tyres
- Unique wheel covers

Fiesta Chicane

- Tilting & removable sunroof
- Power steering
- Central locking
- Power front windows
- Remote tailgate release Body colour bumpers
- Tinted glass
- Tailgate spoiler
- Front fog lamps
- Sports seats
- Sports suspension settings
- 185/55 R14 tyres
- 14° steel wheels

Orthoni	Typical E Plight 1.3 3dr C	zamples hicane 1.95 3dr
Mileage (per annum)	12,000	12,000
Recommended retail price"	£9,460.00	£10,595.00
Estimated on the road price"	£10,195.00	£11,260.00
	£3,037.50	£3,378.00
Deposit (30%)	£7,087.50	£7,882.00
Balance	£1,152.70	£1,978.84
Total charge for credit ¹	£11,277.70	£12,538.84
Total amount payable	95	25
Term (months)	24	24
Number of monthly payments	£155.80	\$171.91
Monthly payment		
Optional final payment to purch (Minimum Guaranteed Future Va	tsc luc ¹¹) £4,446.00	64,980.00
	10.0%	9.9%
APR		





**Margufacturer's Recommended Retail Price including VAT at 17.5% at time of going to press. "Estimated on the road price is based on Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Price and £665 00 estimated on-the-road costs covering delivery to the dealer, and the first reporting commended Retail Price including VAT at 17.5% at time of going to press. "Estimated on the road price is based on Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Price and £665 00 estimated on-the-road costs covering delivery to the dealer, and the first reporting control of the first reporting contr **Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Price including VAT at 17.5% at time of going to press. "Estimated on the road price is based on Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Price and £665.00 estimated co-the-road costs covering delivery to the dealer;

**Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Price including VAT at 17.5% at time of going to press. "Estimated on the road price is based on Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Price and £665.00 estimated co-the-road costs covering delivery to the dealer;

**Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Price including VAT at 17.5% at time of going to press. "Estimated on the road price is based on Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Price and £665.00 estimated co-the-road costs covering delivery to the dealer;

**Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Price and £665.00 estimated co-the-road costs covering delivery to the dealer;

**Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Price and £665.00 estimated on-the-road costs covering delivery to the dealer;

**Includes VAT), payable with the first monthly payment. "Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition in the first monthly payment." Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition in the first monthly payment. "Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition in the first monthly payment." Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition in the first monthly payment. "Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition in the first monthly payment." Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition in the first monthly payment. "Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition in the first monthly payment." Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition in the first monthly payment. "Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition in the first monthly payment." Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition in the first monthly payment. The first monthly payment. The first monthly payment. The first monthly payment in the first mon

0345 123111 Hill House Hammond
Cutting The Cost Of Your Incurance

Bare night on a cold mountain

nother day, another poster. Sensitive to charges of negative advertising Dr Mawhinney and the Crispins negative advertising Dr mawining and the from the Tory ad agency, had put their heads together and come up with something more positive. This was the elever idea of a visual pun involving the Labour appalling consequence of Leader in juxtaposition to some appalling consequence of Labour victory. So number one was "Tony & Bill", showing the Rt Hon Anthony Charles Lynton Blair and - a bill (for 30 hillion quid). Heehee.

This really got us in the office going. In their dark hour, how could we do other than help out the Conservatives with a few ideas of our own for future posters in this series? Our favourites were: Tony & John, featuring a lavatory down which Britain's prospects would disappear, Tony & Mike, with a microphone and an attack on sound-bite politics: Tony & Nick, depicting a crumbling prison - complete with escaping murderers: Tony & Jerry, indicating a Britain in thrall to Helmut Kohl and his Eurofederalists; and - finally (only if all else is failing and Labour is still 20 per cent ahead on April 30th) - Tony & Dick.

As I was faxing these ideas to my friends at Central

Office, I caught a BBC bulletin concerning the engagement of William Hague, the 35-year-old Secretary of State for Wales, to one Ffion Jenkins. Ms Jenkins (who has just – in my opinion – become affianced to the next Conservative Prime Minister | apparently taught Mr Hague the words of Sospan Fach and then "enlightened him on a windy hillside in N. Wales". I feel an affinity for Mr Hague; in 1976 I was similarly enlightened by a young woman on a hill above Llandudno during a National Union of Students conference. It was at once the hottest and coldest experience I have ever had. Pob luc, William bach!

Then, just before I went into the Chamber, SkyNews showed a picture of some schoolchildren and the reporter's voice spoke of "five year olds facing tanks and curfews". On the day that the Government announced its proposals for dealing with juvetule crime, this was ominous, to say the least. Would Jack Straw hold a press conference, and argue that tanks were insufficiently robust, and that sowing land-mines outside schools would deter truancy more effectively? I pointed this out to a colleague. "Not ranks, idiot," she said affectionately, "tags !" Tags for five-year-olds? And I thought the world had gone mad! What a relief!

I wasn't the only happy bunny in the House, Labour MPs were – understandably – very mellow. Every time a marginal Tory stood up they waved at him and sang "bye-byc" in funny little voices. And they want to lock five year olds up!

What was odder, however, was that the Prime Minister should be in such a relaxed, almost valedictory mood. Tony needled him concerning the mul mots of Mr Health Secretary Decibel. Shouldn't Decibel be attending personally to the crisis in the Health Service (a frightening thought this, Decibel in surgical mask yelling "NURSEI SCALPEL!!!"), rather than creating a crisis in the Cahinet? No, replied Mr Major mildly, Decibel "has been an outstanding Health Secretary". But a disastrous leadership

candidate, he didn't add.

As Ben Chapman, the victor of Wirral, was led to sign his name in the members' book and the Opposition waved their order papers (I blame the parents). Mr Major gave the new MP a hearty handshake, and left the Chamber. smiling; more relaxed than I have seen him for months. Or resigned, perhaps? But when I last spotted Mr Chapman. he was wandering about behind the Speaker's chair, looking lost, - a metaphor for the political moment.

Major fighting phantom enemy

Voters' desire for change after 18 years of Tory rule seen as uphill challenge

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

The "phantom enemy" which the Government is fighting in the general election is the fact that the Tories have been in power for 18 years, the Prime Minister said vesterday.

John Major shared the view of many ministers that the Conservatives' biggest challenge in the election will be overcoming the public mood that it is "time for a change" after four successive terms of office,

Asked why the Tories could not get its act together, Mr Ma-jor said on BBC Radio Five: "Eighteen years is the principle problem." He added: "The difficulty we have at the moment is not with the state of the country - it's patently growing, you can see that with the growth in the economy and the fall in unemployment.

"But when you have been in government for 18 years you are fighting in a sense a phan-tom enemy and I think that is a bigger problem for us than any

Ministers privately helieve the longevity factor is one reason why the upturn in the econ-omy - hailed by the Chancellor. Kenneth Clark, last Monday night – is failing to feed through into the "feel-good factor" for the Tories and close Labour's lead in the opinion polls. As the Prime Minister handled

questions in a 45-minute phonein programme. Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party Chairman, unveiled a new Tory campaign poster to replace the Tory lion shedding red tears. which is regarded as a failure.

The new poster attempts to hit at alleged Labour spending



figures, depicting Tony Blair studying a hill for £30bn. The slogan. "Tony & Bill", may ave voters as bemused as the lion posters did. Conservative Central Office sources said it was not poking fun at Labour's attempts to ape some of the campaign techniques of the United States President, Bill Clinton. "Mr Blair is looking at a bill. It is nothing to do with

Mr Major defended the

Tories' negative campaigning as a success, and he told one sympathiser that it was important to point out the risks to the electorate, which tended to think that as the economy was doing

well, it was safe to vote Labour. The Prime Minister also left little doubt that 1 May would be the election date, which is fast becoming the worst-kept secret in Whitehall. "There is a fair expectation. I think I will announce it in the normal row over the European single

constitutional way." He fell silent when pressed to say it would he 1 May.

As he handled hostile questions with politeness, Mr Major's performance was a foretaste of the personal charm offensive be is planning to lead in the election campaign. He refused to be irritated, even by last weekend's gaffe by Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, which reopened the

currency after strenuous efforts had been made to reunite the Cabinet behind the Government's "wait-and-see" policy.
"He made a mistake. He's

human, as we all are ... We all make mistakes. I make mistakes. Everybody makes mistakes from time to time," said Mr Major.

The Prime Minister, a Chelsea supporter, was also in forgiving mood to the football referee, who awarded a penal-

demands for video evidence to be used by football referees on the pitch, was a mistake, Mr Major said. over £21

STATE OF THE STATE

小 一种经济等

A 8 8 32 13 7. 77

15 A

-:=:-:

10 mg 27 4 7

(C)

4742

~: 小字文表

Six cruci

about to

"I don't think it was a penalty... Everyone has been beastly ro the referee. It is a hell of a job to be a referee. I sympathise. He had to make the decision running around for two hours.

ty last week which out Leices-

ter out of the FA Cup. The decision, which has led to

Mrs Dorrell puts her faith in the NHS

Chief Political Correspondent

Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, and his wife.

The Health Secretary, whose

son and daughter were born in NHS hospitals, has private health insurance, but his wife Penclope, are expecting their has put her faith in the state's 1987 general election campaign some unions, offer private market" in the NHS. third child to be horn this healthcare system and will be us- by insisting she wanted the doc- health cover for their workers. The report, by the third child to be horn this healthcare system and will be us-

ing the NHS for the delivery of their third child, former commitments to remove private beds from the Accident and Emergency units

tor of her choice at the time of

Now, the Dorrell family's support for the NHS comes amid expectations that the Tory general election manifesto will commit the Tories to a publiclyfunded health service, and will deny any switch to a general insurance-based system. Mr Dorrell, like Lady Thatcher, sees his private health insurance as a 'safety net" for his family's health care, which can be called

on when necessary. dependent report tomorrow Labour has abandoned its

but it could still he a flashpoint in the election, with Labour continuing to claim that the Tories are intent on privatising the

After Mr Dorrell's gaffe over ruling out Britain's entry into the European single currency, Tony Blair yesterday told John Major ar Prime Minister's Question Time that Mr Dorrell should concentrate on the crisis in the health service, rather than the

Mr Blair disclosed that an in-

Baroness Thatcher famously defended her use of private
medicine in the midst of the
medicine in the midst of the
more employers, including
make worse by the "internal market" in the NHS. The report, by the NHS Sup-

port Federation, which sald last night it lends no support to any party, will show "a faltering and pressurised service struggling to cope with demand". The report, entitled A and E: NHS in Dis-tress, is critical of the markethased system which it claims makes a coordinated response to rising demand almost

"We cannot simply redirect resources from other hospital services to A and E. We need a constructive and full response to give the public new confisaid Janet Porter, a casualty con-sultant at Southend.

Some NHS officials fear that some family doctors are passing their patients on to casualty units to jump the queues for hos pital treatment. There were also cent rise in demand for emergency treatment would be repeated this year, overloading the

To cope with an expected upsurge in demand, Mr Dorrell allocated a fund of £25m for intensive care, mental health and continuing care. The extra money was intended to help tide the NHS over until April, when the additional £1.6bn for the health service announced in

"Whatever happens in the Election, my loan stays fixed."

power yourself with a Mercantile Credit Loan

If you take out a Mercantile Credit loan now, you're guaranteed that your repayments and the

AMOUNT DF	MON	THLY REPAY	MENT BY T	ERM
LDAN	24 MTHS	36 MTHS	60 MTH'S	APR
2 6,000	290.71	207.77	142.50	15.9%
£10,000	476.20	337.74	228 38	13 9%

rates after the Election. You can borrow anything from £500 to £15,000 and we'll give you up to five years to pay us back.

Please empower me today by sending me details of your direct cersonal loans. |Send completed coupon to Mercantile Credit, PO Box 117, FREEPOST 5EA 9521, Crawley, West Susces RH10 2BR, No stamp required :

You don't need any deposit or security. We'll give you a quick decision.

And we're open every day from 7am to 11pm. So. if you're over 25, in regular employment and have an annual income of £10,000 or more, call us free now.

> MERCANTILE CREDIT

PNONE FOR A FAST LOAN - 20071/10 FEF 4621

SHORT-SIGHTED?



ENJOY THE FUTURE WITHOUT GLASSES

Eliminate the inconvenience and cost of contact lenses and glasses for only £395 per eye (or £760 for both). Using the most advanced lasers our doctors can correct short-sight and astigmatism. Over 28,500 treatments make OPTIMAX the UK's leading laser centre.



Phone now for a free information pack

LONDON • BRISTOL • MANCHESTER • BIRMINGHAM • NEWCASTLE

حكذا من الأصل





Scientist denies testing animals from Gulf War

The Ministry of Defence admitted last night that Parliament may have been misled by Earl Howe, the Defence minister, over the fate of animals whose deaths may have been linked to the use of organophosphate posticides in the Gulf War.

Former soldiers who served. in the conflict have told The Independent they believe that camels, sheep and domestic animals which died in the war were killed by pesticides.

Army chiefs ordered that the animal corpses be sent back to the UK for scientific tests to determine the cause of their deaths. Last July, in response to a Parliamentary question, Earl Howe told Parliament the ex-

periments at an Edinburgh veterinary centre had shown the animals died of natural causes. But last night, after inquiries by The Independent and Grana-da Television, the director of the Ceptre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine in Edinburgh, which Earl Howe said carried out the tests, said he had no record of

such work ever being done. Professor David Taylor said staff at the centre had no recollection of such tests. He has written to Earl Howe asking for an explanation of the informa-

"I have gone back through all our computerised records, and we have no record of ever having done this work."

He added: "I have written to Earl Howe and asked him if he could let me know exactly who received these sample because we are at a loss to know where this information in Hansard

comes from." The MoD said it had begun an internal inquiry into how the minister had been misinformed.

A spokesman said: "We are getting all the paperwork out to see who advised the minister in his reply. Perhaps there is confusion in the name of the learned body [which did the experiments]. It seems clearly to have not been the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine."

Last July the Countess of Mar, who has taken a special interest in the effects of organophosphate insecticides and other chemicals on British troops, asked whether the animals had been exposed to nerve gas.

In his reply Earl Howe said: "Samples from dead animals were sent back to the Edinburgh Veterinary School and Tropical Medicine Centre [sic] and all were found to have died of nat-

given, the MoD was denying the use of organophosphate insecticides (ops) in the Gulf War.

Three months later, Nicholas Soomes, the Armed Forces minister, apologised to the House and said he had been misinformed: ops had been used to protect troops from desert pests.

Yesterday, troops who served in the conflict told of how they were ordered to put the animal carcasses into plastic bags to be flown back to Britain. Cpl Richie Turnbull, a

Chester-based RAF veteran. said: "All the flies on the animals were dead as well. It was very strange." He said that he was sure that the dead animals were being sent back to military labs. Sgt Angus Parker, a labora-

tory technician who was working for scientists from the Porton Down chemical and biological defence establishment in Wiltshire, attributes the animal deaths to the use of pesticides. He said he accompanied

body-bags containing animals as they were flown to Boscombe Down, the military airport in Wiltshire, close to Porton Down. "They were taken away in lorries and I am pretty sure they were not going to Scot-land," he added.



إ هكدا من الأصل

Handshake of victory: Tony Blair welcoming Ben Chapman, who became the new Labour MP for South Wirral after his victory in the by-election last week, at the House of Commons yesterday

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS Blair's first question showed that he wasn't Blair looking to entrap Major with clever tacts, but was using the NHS as a launching pad for a "the Government must go" conclusion.

Major concentrated on Labour's opposition to Major Conservative Health policy, and said Blair should stop "harping on". As always, the two leaders presented polarised views of the NHS.

Blair asked whether Stephen Dorrell should "concentrate on dealing with Buair asked whether Stephen Dorren should concentrate on dealth the crisis in the NHS rather than adding to the crisis in the Consentrate of the critical of party". Major replied: "he has been an outstanding Secretary of State". Blat asked about a survey saying that many accident and emergency depart-ments were in crisis. Major said Labour had opposed all the improvemen as had made to "create a modern NHS". Blair said if Majo

•The Northern Ireland devotved assembly (Clive Soley, Lab, Hammerson

nservative fightback (Paddy Ashdown) • The date of the General Election (Helen Jac re success (Peter Luff, C, Worcester)

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION Jackson: "Following the very decisive statement by the vote General Election will be on May 1st?" Major said that firstly, he wanted to congratulate the new MP for Wirral South, Ben Chapman. He then sat down without making a second point.

the fightback immediately, did he expect them to take him quite so literally? Lord Tebbit . . Lord McAlpine . . . and the Health Secretary . . In deciding how to deal with these delinquents, has the PM ever considered that he might make use of secure accommodation and electronic tagging?" Major was seized by the giggles, and had to look at the Speaker to regain his composure.

THE CREEP OF THE DAY Luff. This country has the most successful economy of any ... rests of the UK in Europe, and ... prepared to proof the UK and itsIntluence around the world, and wouldn all this be put al risk by the policies of the party opposite?

Court backs council over £21m subsidy

separate budget for housing ser-

and Accountancy.

Although the Act governing

the operation of bousing revenue accounts came into force in

1990, it was not until 1994/5 that

This involved a one-off pay-

gued it was entitled to a subsidy

of £20.9m. The Secretary of

State for the Environment had.

argued that if the council had

adopted the new accounting

method before 1990, no adjust-

ment would have been necessary.

Westminster Correspondent

The Department of the Environment faces a £300m hole in its budget after losing a court case against Camden Council over the rules governing hous-

Camden in north London is expected to receive £20.9m as a result of Court of Appeal vic-tory and a further 15 other councils are expected to benefit from the judgment made yes-

Steve Bundred, Camden Council's chief executive, said: This is a victory for common sense and for long-suffering council tenants." He said that cuts in the Government's housing grant over years have left many of its estates with simply no cash for vital repairs" and that the extra money could now be used for

housing investment. The extremely complicated

or second liverity of the

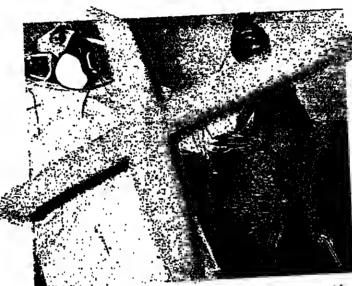
24 70 27 3 28

case centred on whether the judgment that he was prepared DoE was obliged to pay a subto accept that the Secretary of sidy when the council made a State intended that the subsidy change to its accounting practice should not be paid, but had not worded a directive clearly Camden, along with other councils, had been asked to change enough to achieve this. its accounting practice for its

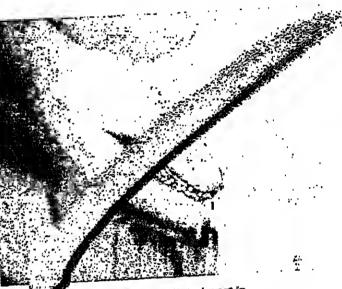
The judge said the council housing revenue account; the had argued that if the subsidy were not paid, it would mean either an average rise of £230 vices, to bring it in line with recommendations from the for every council taxpayer, Chartered Institute of Public Fi-or massive cuts in council

services. The w retary of State's claim, saying that although ministers had not wished to pay the subsidy, if the Secretary of State "has not Camden changed its system in used the words necessary to line with the recommendation. achieve his objective, that is unment for which the council arfortunate".

Mr Bundred said yesterday. "We have to fight for every penny for regeneration of our run-down estates. This money has been kept from our 30,000 tenants. It is overdue and very



The Friends Provident Stewardship PEP seeks investment in companies that harm people, wildlife or our world.



Instead, it seeks to invest in benefits to society.

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER HAVE PROFIT WITH PRINCIPLES?

The Friends Provident Stevrardship PEP

The Friends Provident Stewardship PEP aims to invest in companies that make a positive contribution to the world we live in. And to avoid companies whose business

practices could be harmful to the planet and its people. Yet this needn't mean avoiding a

Over the past 5 years, Stewardship has out-performed the average return for all unit

trusts, ethical or not.* Just the kind of performance you would expect from Friends Provident, the UK's leading ethical investment company, which manages around £700 million of ethical investments.

Five year returns out-perform the average for all unit trusts.

Get on the Blue Line now, direct to Friends Provident.

The Blue Line is the fast no-hassle way to get the information you need about this product over the phone to help you make an informed decision.

You'll deal with friendly qualified people who will talk to you in clear

straightforward language.

Call 0800 00 00 80 now, or contact your financial adviser, and you'll find that your principles needn't stop you making a profit.

> The plus points of profit with principles

 Proven track record with good growth prospects.

All profits are tax-free.

G Invest a lump sum (minimum £1,000) or monthly payments of £50 or more.

o Managed by the UK's leading ethical investment company.

 Investment in successful companies which are helping rather than harming

Get on the Blue Line

We're here to take your call 8 to 8 Weekdays. 10 to 4 Weekends.

FRIENDS PROVIDENT

FRIENCS PROVIDENT THE BLUE LINE LINE LINETED IS A REPRESENTATIVE ONLY OF THE FRIENCS PROVIDENT MARKETING GROUP WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY. FRIENDS PROVIDENT THE BLUE LINE LIMITED IS A REPRESENTATIVE ONLY OF THE FRIENDS PROVIDENT MARKETING GROUP WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY.

THE VALUE OF A LIMIT TRUST, AND ANY INCOME FROM IT, IS NOT GUARANTEED AND CAN GO UP AND DOWN DEPENDING ON INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE.

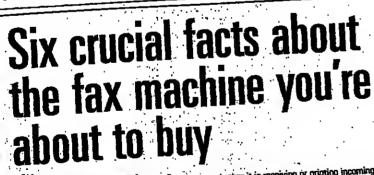
PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE, FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST, TAX LEGISLATION MAY CHANGE.

PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE, FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST, TAX LEGISLATION MAY CHANGE.

PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO THE SITST JANUARY 1997, ALL RIGHRES ON AN OFFER TO BID BASIS WITH GROSS INCOME REINVESTED. SOURCE: HSW.

TRASED ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE STEWARDSHIP LINE TRUST OVER 5 YEARS TO THE SITS JANUARY 1997 ALL RIGHRES ON AN OFFER TO BID BASIS WITH GROSS INCOME REINVESTED. SOURCE: HSW.

YOUR CALL MAY BE RECORDED FOR YOUR SECURITY.



1. FAXING Technology has moved on and value for money has increased. So before you buy any old fax machine, take a good look at the new plain paper F120 from Muratec, It has all the processing power your business could

2. PC CONNECTIBLE Check that your new fax can work with your PC. The F120 has an optional PC interface" that lets you receive and send faxes directly to or from your PC and allows you to use your fax as a scanner to import images into your computer files.

3. PRINTING/COPYING Make sure your PC can use your lax as a primer. The F120 can be used as a 600klpi printer* or as a high quality plain paper laser copier. It makes up to 99 copies from one original with automatic or manual size reduction.

Consider flow much A MURTHASKING time can be wasted by waiting at the fax machine. The F120 scans outgoing taxes at the superfast speed



whether it is receiving or prioring incoming messages. This means you can get on with other work sooner than with ordinary fax Look for a fax that

5. MEMORY incorporates a time and money saving memory. The F120 has a built in 78 page memory (upgradeable to 558 pages) which facilitates out of paper reception, broadcasting and delayed send transmissions, so you can send when tanifs

6. THE FAX SUPPLIER Buy from a company that specialises. Muratec only make faxes so we have to be the best. We build fax machines with all these value added features built-in, not bolted on.

So before you rush out and huy an ordinary fax, send for details on the multifunctional, multitasking F120. We'll also send you a FREE Guida to Fax Facts which contains a lot more details about buying faxes.

Call 0345 626782



No. 1 Stoke Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4HW Tai (01483) 302166 Fax (01483) 301900 http://www.muratec.co.uk

Britain's defence in jeopardy, say MPs

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

The parlous state of Britain's armed forces was underlined vesterday when MPs warned that any further cuts would threaten the defence of the

The Commons Defence Committee insisted the case for reversing some of the cutbacks Change and Front Line First programmes was "well made".
"We insist that the defence spending plans set out in the

1996 Budget must at least be maintained in real terms in future years," the committee said. And in its report the committee stressed: "Any further re-

duction would jeopardise the defence of the realm." Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence. fought a rough battle with the Treasury before last November's Budget, Small cash reductions were offset by lower than expected inflation figures and reduced pensions contributions to produce a level budget.

Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall South and a member of the committee, said the report traced "a decline in the defence budget which in reali-ty is considerably worse than the circumstances justify".

The report says that the MoD will spend an estimated £700m more than its £21.4bn budget this financial year. The sell-off of 70,000 service married quarters, which has netted £1.666n for the Treasury has, so far, actually cost the MoD monev as it has light to pay £72m rept to the new owners and £11m to refurbish the quarters before

Nevertheless, the MoD yesterday said the core of its spending remained unchanged, and that overall spending had gone dightly when taken as Report.

from 1995 to 1998. The committee - and Lahour - broadly accepted this, but warned that spending on a large number of high-profile projects including a new frigate, the Eurofighter 2000, a replacement Maritime Patrol Aircraft and the Advanced Anti Armour weapon was due to peak in 2003-2004. and that not enough money would be available.

A future government would either have to make more money available, or some of these very prominent projects would have to be cut.

Of the extra £705-710m the MoD must spend this year. only the £11m for refurbishing married quarters prior to selling them represents any form of spending on new goods and services. Of the remaining extra spending, £316m - £72m rent for the married quarters and £244m for unbudgeted spending on Bosnia - represents ex-tra cash which will have to be

recovered from the Treasury. The MoD yesterday insisted that the remaining £380m, carried over from earlier years, had already been spent on budgeted items and was therefore merely being redistributed with-in the agreed defence budget. The report noted there had

been "unwanted savings" because of the shortfall in service recruiting, which was expected to save between £96m and £120m over each of the next

The extra £244m spent on operations in Bosnia this year led the committee to say that "eight and the committee to say that "eight and the same before the same than the same before the same than the same before the same than th ther the defence budget in-clude an element for contingencies, such as peacekeeping operations, or the extra cost of such operations should be refunded to the Ministry of Defence as it is in-

Defence Committee, Fourth £63,516hn over the three years HMSO: £10,60.



Under fire: Lt-Col Mike Bradley exercising his dog in the Northumberland National Park, which the Army wants to use more intensively for training

Ground rules set for battle of Otterburn

Heritage Correspondent

The end-game in a bitter dispute over the Army's deployment of its heaviest and most suphisticated artillery pieces in the Northumberland National Park began vesterday with polite verbal fencing at a hearing to establish the ground rules for a full public inquiry.

Of all the conflicts in the national parks, none compares with the hattle over the £23m plan for upgrading the Otterburn raining area to accommodate

gun and the multi-launch rocket system (MLRS).

The road building, hardstanding for guns and support facilities amount to one of the iggest developments ever proposed for a national park. Conservationists regard it as damaging to the wild upland landscape and inimical to the purposes of the park.

But the Army, which has oc-cupied the 58,000-acre training area since 1911, argues that Otterburn is the only practical option fur rehearsing vital "shoot and scoot" techniques. And the 45-ton ASMI self-propelled without the upgrading, their big Ministry of Defence in a state- 23 per cent of the national park was meant to protect.

guns would simply sink in the moorland peat.

Countering claims that more use could be made of computer simulations, the Army will tell the inquiry that training on a live firing range in all weathers, night and day, builds esprit de corps and demonstrates to all ranks that command procedures will work in times of stress.

Lack of confidence, inexperience, distrust of equipment and concern about the ability of others leads to uncertainty, ineffectiveness, unnecessary cament issued at yesterday's preinquiry bearing.

By the time the inquiry itself opens on 22 April, the Army's case will be bolstered by the findings of a review of training areas. Conducted on the insistence of the Commons' Public Accounts Committee, It is expected to conclude that withdrawal from Germany and other overseas exercise grounds has left the Army some \$0,000 hectares short of its land needs, so more intensive use will have to be made of existing ranges.

The Utterborn range covers

park, the least visited and most thinly populated park in Eng-land and Wales, Live firing means that for some 300 days a year the public are barred

from even its rights of way. Opposition to the upgrading lan is led jointly by Northumerland County Council and the national park who regard it as unacceptably damaging to the landscape. Graham Taylor, the park's senior officer, accepts the military presence as "a fact of life", but said that the Army's plans represented a "substantial erosion" of the q

Amanda Nobbs, of the watchdog Council for National Parks (CNP), said it was the biggest-ever development proposed in a park and one of the most damaging.

The inquiry, at a hotel by Newcastle airport, is expected to last at least 12 weeks. It is, however, essentially a struggle between David and Goliath, with the MoD preparing to spend £2.5m on its case, compared with £150,000 by the two public authorities and only a few thousand by the CNP and its conservation tional Park Alliance.

"Whatever happens in the Election, my loan stays fixed."

power yourself with a Mercantile Credit Loan

If you take out a Mercantile Credit loan now, you're guaranteed that your repayments and the

MONTHLY REPAYMENT BY TERM				
24 arties	36 MTHS	60 MTKS	APR	
290 71	207 77	142.50	15 9%	
476.20	337 74	228.38	13.9%	
	24 artes 290 71	24 arms 36 arms 290 71 207 77	24 arms 36 arms 60 arms 290 71 207 77 142.50	

term of your loan are fixed whatever happens to interest rates after the Election.

You can borrow anything from £500 to £15,000 and we'll give you up to five years to pay us back.

Dease empower me loday by sending me details of your direct personal loans. Send completed coupon to Mercantile Great, PO Box 117 PRESPOST SEA 0521. Crawley West Susser RH10 289, No stamp required -

You don't need any deposit or security. We'll give you a quick decision.

And we're open every day from 7am to 11pm. So. if you're over 25, in regular employment and have an annual income of £10,000 or more, call us free now.



PHONE FOR A FAST LOAN - SUCTIONS FEE 4821

Navy denies press-ganging cleaning crew The Royal Navy always used to nior Service had leaked the ny was a "very cost-effective" press-gang civilians in time of story yesterday to draw atten-

manpower shortage. But the six tion to the Navy's slight shortcivilian cleaning staff who went to sea with the Navy aboard HMS Newcastle from November to last month were all volunteers. writes Christopher

Senior Naval sources yesterday said that someone in the Se- the Aardvark cleaning compa-

Bellamy.

age of sailors.

Last night the Navy insisted that it was usual for civilian workers to stay on board warships after they had been refitted, and that the use of six civilian cleaning experts from

HMS Newcastle had been refitted at Rosyth dockyard on the Firth of Forth, and when the time came for it put to sea there were not enough sailors. The 4,500-ton Type 42 destroyer, designed to shoot down aircraft, should have a crew of 240. Even with its six civilian clean-

ers it only had just over 200 when it put to sea for three months of trials.

Denving that the cleaners had been kept on board by mistake. a Navy spokesman said it was normal for computer and engineering contractors to sail with a refitted vessel, to check out new systems, and this time cleaners had been taken too.

More etanic

in Britain 93

aducation inc

a traction se



Whotever you want to know, Which? Online discussion groups will be able

to help you. Our discussion groups emer a whole host of subjects anything from personal finance to members' B&B recommendations and from health questions to what to do if greenfly anack your roses. These discussions are contributed to by Which? expens and members alike. So whatever your question, Which? Online discussion groups will pravide the answers 24 hours a day, every day. A subscription to Which? Online also gires von fast unlimited Internet access with 24 hour customer support. Now one of the higgest sites in Europe, Which? Online is your gateway to a wealth of consumer information on an extraordinary range of subjects from bolidays to health, and from

other members. Which? Online brings you:

finance to gardening - and it allows

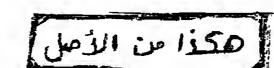
you to talk directly to our experts and

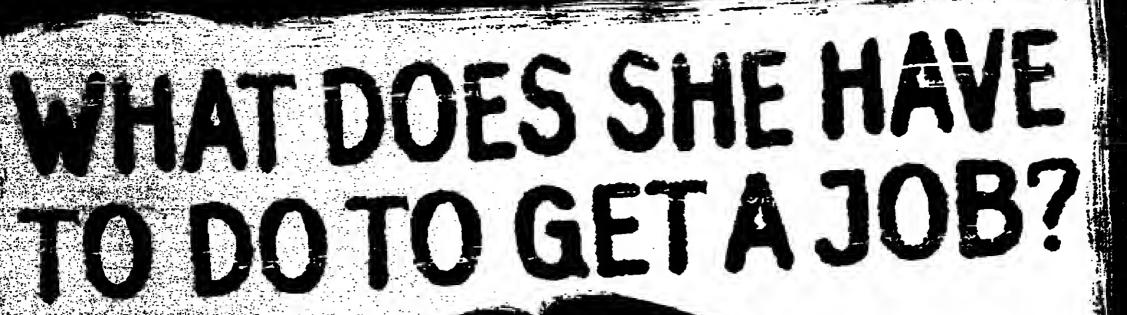
- · fast unlimited Internet access exclusive access to Which?
- infermation
- · member and Which? expert discussion groups
- e-mail address excellent customer service

For an information pack, including details of a free trial offer, call the number below or visit our web site.

WHICH@nline 0345 300 191

YGDAFGRE -NOKIA 1611 TARIFF £9.99 ... INCLUDES 15 MINUTES OF CALLS PER MONTH WORTH UP TO £72 PER YEAR INCLUDING PEAK CALLS FREE LEATHER CARRY CASE
AND IN-CAR ADAPTOR
WORTH ESS INC. VAT FREE COUNTDOWN MEMBERSHIP FOR 1 YEAR WITH THE CELLPHONES DIRECT ADVANTAGE CARD FREE LIFETIME PRODUCT @ **@** @ FREE GUARANTEE 0 O T FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING PRICE PLEDGE - We'll match any antiqually advectised offer for this phone. 1 2- 3-47 54 6 Vecafare. 7 84 9m PERSONALWORLD 15 TARIFF CONNECTION CHANGE £35.(4) MONTHLY RESTUL £17.56 PEHE RATE CHILS WE WIDE . OFF PEHE CHILS REW 63M MODEL 1811. 480 per min 120 per min Up to 3 5 hrs talk-time DHE SECOND BILLING Hi û ha standby SMS send and receive. Cellphones THE NAME TO TRUST IN TELEPHONE SHOPPING







More ethnic minority women in Britain go on to higher education than white women. Only a fraction secure a decent job.

bur

Being talented isn't enough.

Being dedicated isn't enough.

Being ambitious isn't enough.

Being qualified isn't enough.

Being more than qualified isn't enough.

It's sexist.
It's racist.
It's too much.

If you're an employer or manager, make it your job to give ethnic minority women an equal chance.

COMMISSION FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

"VISIBLE WOMEN" IS THE FIRST NATIONAL CAMPAIGN ABOUT ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN IN BRITAIN. . R DETAILS ON ANY ASPECT OF THE CAMPAIGN CALL THE CRE ON 0171 932 5357.

A powder keg explodes in the heart of Europe

Nobody has any control over the President any more. Some say he has gone crazy; others assert he always was. Rusty old tanks rumble down the ruited country tracks that pass for major roads on a mission to hreak up anti-gov-ernment roadblocks and intimidate Kalashnikov-toting rehels into giving up their

A media blackout is imposed on the country, radio stations are pulled off the air, a handful of journalists are beaten up, an independent newspaper is firebombed and a favourite café for opposition figures and intellectuals is

trashed by unidentified thugs.

The country is crawling with secret policemen, mafiosi, security patrols and army units. The shops are besieged and hread is running short. Only trans-shipments of cocaine and heroin continue as normal. Paranoid rumours of internecine power struggles and outside intervention abound. The government is dismissed hut does not go away: the army chief of staff is fired and pursued by the courts for sedition; the head of the secret police is put

in charge of running the country.

It's a jungle out there, and ordinary citizens have no choice but to sit at home, knock back alternate cups of coffee and hrandy and wait for the craziness to pass. What country could this possibly be? It sounds like the backdrop for a piece of Latin American magic realism, but it isn't. It's happening, right now, and in

the heart of Europe For two years, Albania has been a powder keg of corruption, organised crime, political repression and financial con-tricks. Somehow the outside world failed to see the disaster coming and insisted that the country was developing as a haven of peace and democracy.

Andrew Gumbel on the world's folly in ignoring the signs of approaching disaster in Albania

Now the powder keg has exploded, and the fall-out has only begun. Much of Albania's economy has gone belly-up following the collapse of a string of fraudulent pyramid investment schemes linked to organised crime networks that inveigled the entire population. Law and order has collapsed because one half of the police and judiciary has been irre-deemahly corrupted, while the rest have been run out of the southern half of the country by furious crowds brandishing automatic weapons looted from police and army depots.

President Sali Berisha, meanwhile, persists in exercising his authority through political repression and hrute force. In the chaotic aftermath of Alhania's emancipation from communism in 1991-2, the United States was instrumental in promoting the virulently anticommunist Mr Berisha to the position he now commands, These days, the US has become increasingly vocal in its criticisms and Mr Berisha, according to political sources, has branded Washington an enemy along with the many others - foreign journalists, opposition leaders and intellectuals pushed into exile.

The deeper the crisis grows, the more Mr Berisha resembles Alhania's old Statinist dictator, Enver Hoxha, as he turns ruthlessly on colleagues he no longer trusts, blames his problems on conspiracies and promotes himself as

the only true champion of the people. Although he hates to be reminded of the fact, Mr Berisha owes many of his deeper political instincts to Hoxha's peculiar hrand of Stalin-

ist isolationism. He served as Hoxha's personal heart doctor, giving him privileged access and influence in the years up to the old man's death in 1985, and served as a Communist Party secrelary for more than two decades. He was close to Hoxha's successor. Ramiz Alia, and only joined the anti-communist movement on impulse after Alia had sent him to break up an anti-government demonstra-

tion at Tirana University. Now the students are in ferment again, but this time Mr Berisha is on the other side of the fence. For five years he liked to portray himself as a man of the people, at ease in crowds

and charismatic on a speaking podium (an echo, perhaps, of Hoxha's claim to be "knee to knee" with his fellow Albanians). As the population has turned against him, however, Mr Berisha has been forced to concoct ever more conspiracy theories, blaming the former Communist secret police, the Socialist opposition. murky terrorist groups and now these supposed "foreign agents".

The state of emergency is a coup in reverse, an attempt to crush the rebellion before it crushes him. The use of force is highly dangerous, not least because of the potential for spill-over into Kosovo, Macedonia and the wider Balkans.

The lawlessness of a Colombia or a Somalia has landed in the middle of our continent. The calamity should have been foreseen, but wasn'ı. And now we will all have to find a way

Leading article, page 17



A masked man firing into the air in Vlora, where the government has lost all control

Berisha sacks army chief as rebellion continues

Emma Daly Tirana

The state of emergency imposed in Alhania two days ago has exacerbated fear in the capital, Tirana, but has done little to quell the anti-government rebellion in the south, where several towns have fallen under

the control of angry citizens. The army chief of staff, whose troops proved powerless to confront rioters armed with weapons looted from barracks. was yesterday sacked by the nounced their intention to set up president. Sali Berisha, and re- a parallel city council in oppo-

placed with a trusted presidential adviser. Tanks were filmed moving to-

wards the towns of Vlora and Gjirokaster but police, who have joined the military effort, stopped foreign journalists from reaching the region, and therefore there are no accounts of what might have happened.

Rebellious civilians in the southern towns of Saranda - who were said by Greek television to be armed with anti-tank weapons - held a rally and anBritain's link to regime

In a letter to The Independent Sir Reginald Hibbert, the distinguished diplomat and wartime Special Operations officer, spells out the central role of the Tory politician Lord Amery in forging links between the British establishment and the regime of Sali Berisha in Albania Page 17

sidon to their mayor, who is close to Mr Berisha's ruling party.

A few a triumphant men were filmed on one of the patrol boats seized in the capture

the port of Vlora, bringing the death toll there to 18 since Friday. The government claimed yesterday that four others in the lown were "executed by terrorists" on Monday as they tried to of Saranda's tiny naval base. A four-year-old girl was said comply with an official demand to have been killed by gunfire in to surrender all weapons.

An Albanian military jet and many Albanians fear it landed at Italy's Galatina milimay explode into civil war. tary airport near the city of Lecce, in Puglia, just across the Adriatic Sea from Albania. The pilot and co-pilot reportedly asked for political asylum.

Police set numerous roadblocks around Tirana in an attempt to stop the spread of violence that began in January with riots sparked off by the collapse of the pyramid schemes in which many Albanians bad invested life savings. The disconlent has grown into a mass movement against Mr Berisba

The president had already

sacked the government and yesterday added a new scape-goat, the army chief of staff; Soldiers bear direct responsibility for not taking measures to defend the bases from rioters" said a government statement published in the ruling party newspaper, which appeared on Tirana newstands yesterday.

The offices of Gazeta Shqiptare, by contrast, sat silent and empty of equipment, which was removed by staff after the

paper has not been sbut down in theory but in practice it cannot operate. Its staff are now stocking up on food. The superficial calm in the capital hides much anxiety about the future. "Tirana is terrified," a Gazeta supporter said.

London — President Sali offices of an opposition daily pa-Berisha must work with the opper was torched by secret poposition to resolve his country's crisis, Malcolm Rifkind, the licemen. The Gazeta, an independent daily, has not been Foreign Secretary, said yester-day, pledging to discuss inter-national action with its published for two days: under the emergency laws all news reports are supposed to be passed by an official censor and all busi-European Union partners, AP writes. Javier Solana, the Nato nesses must close by 3pm. The secretary-general, said the situation in Albania is not one for military intervention by Nato or anyone else. He said Nato's intervention in Bosnia had created expectations that the organisation might intervene in any crisis, which is not the case.

LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

LEAGUE TABLE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 23 FEBRUARY

POS	NAME	TEAM	POINT
ı	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	JOSI MARTI	762
2	MR SIMON LIU	DEFENCE ROVERS	735
з.	MR ASHLEY BRETTLE	RELEGATION (2	728
4	MR WILLIAM BARR	KRUEGER RC	724
5	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	ARLENSIU	722
5 ,	MR GRAHAM LONGSDANE	SANDLING STROLLERS	722
7	MR GARFIED MCCULLEN	GARFIELD BOYS SECOND	719
a	MR RICK YAP	OUT OF MIND	718
9	MR IAN GROUT	SILK CITY	717
10	MR BILT COOPER	YEP MOC 2000	713
10	MR PAUL MATTHEW	THE DOOR MAT	713
12	MR KEITH HORRY	ORGANIC MANURE FC	712
1 3	MR JONN COX	SOUTHFILL F.C.	711 .
14	MR SEAN BROSNAN	OASIS	710
14	MR S KING	CRUISING ALEXANDRA	710
14	MR J GODWIN	NORYOOD	710
17	MR SIMON DRAPER	PLATE F.C	709
18	MR GARY HARROWS	101 STARS	708
19	MR A MORGAN	KICK STAR	70?
20	MR NICK KNIGHT	KNIGHTS NANA HEAD	705
21	MR DARREN NICHOLAS	EDNA	704
21	DR STEPHEN MATTHEWS	IMPERIAL STATES	704
21	MR E J HETHERINGTON	BETRIC	704
24	DR HOME	THE FLYING FOXES	703
25	MR SCOTY MCINERNEY	-	702
25	MR PAUL RICHARDSON	CINCINATI STORM	702
25	MR ANDY LANE	IF ANYONE CAN TOUCAN	702
25	MR ROBERT GREENFIELD	THE GULLS	702
29	MR M GREGGSON	LITTLE-UNS	70 t
30	MR JONATHAN FURNESS	REDSTAR CARDIFF	700
31	MR ADAM HOGG	BLAGGY HOGG	699
31	MR O J JOHNSON	THE AWAY WINNERS	699
33	MR P HEMMINGWAY	WAGON WHEELS	698
33	MB WOODHOUSE	LEE BURNS CHEST	693
33	MR K B MALCOLM	INTER MALCOLM	698
36	MR R RENNICK	WILD ROVERS	697
37	MR STEVEN HART	KEE'S COWBOYS	696
38	DR STEVE GILL	MORE POINTS THAN SOTON	695
39	MR ANDY SWANNEY	DOG S BRICK	494
40	MR D R KENNEDY		693
41	MR R PRINGLE	HAMMERS UTD	692
1		DEEPDALE VILLA 7	4
41	MR JONATHAN MCCROSSEN	Wash top army	692
41	MR P CURRAN		692
44	MR TIMOTHY MARRIOT		199
44	MR JOE GOODING	TEAM SQUIDLIPS .	631
44	MR PAUL FULLWOOD	King of Hobbies F.C	691
4.4	MANAGEMENT OF THE PARTY OF THE		401

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY SPEELIPS

oday we publish the latest results in our Independent Fantasy Football game. supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs.

The Team Market and Scores table published below, shows four scores. The Week 29 (Wk 29) column lists all points scored in Premiership matches played between Monday 24 February - Sunday 2 March inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 2 March.

Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Independent Fantasy Football managers and their teams for matches on Sunday. The overall Top 50 League table will

Results will be published every Wednesday in The Independent for all games played from the prevlous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal **4** points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ I point when a player is selected and plays - I point for a winning goal = 3 points for a manager win, I point for a draw - Lose I point for a yellow card - Lose 3

played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 23 Feb- be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday. Terms and conditions as previously published

Let's mate things better

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

TEAM MARKET AND OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 2 MARCH; WEEK 29 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 24 FEBRUARY - 2 MARCH

Ruddock
Scales
Haviones
Neville (Pi
lawin
Pallister
Mey
Vicker
Pearson
Winte
Cee
Albert
Howey
Peneock
Barton
Beresford
Cooper
Chetik
Jerkan
Jottle
Pearce
Monitor
Dodd
Benafi
Charline
Nolan
Atherton
Walker
Secanowe
Medville
Kabicki
Ball
Campbell
Calderwoo
Anann
Ednalwigh
Mahbutt
Dicks
Bille
Rieper
Hall
Bonten
Pearce
Reeves
There
Interdict THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O Seuman Bossach Flowers
Rhannes
Hischoos
Ogein vir
Flant
Southall
Martyr
James
Pook
House
Wegst
Heiler
Crossles
Wegst
Beatsant
Pressma
Coton
Walker
Mikkerk
Sullinan Denor Denor Denor Minterber Bould Addams Nature Southeast McGrath Elmoga Weight The Elmoga Weight The Berg Le Saute Cokeman Hendry Kenna Duberry Pettescu Pholan Leboout Sandar Minto Prisa Sandar Minto Prisa Sandar Hendry Kassar Lassouth Heitteser Hendrich Shart Lassouth Heitteser Hendrich Leboouth Shart Lassouth Heitteser Hendrich Leboouth Shart Lassouth Heitteser Hendrich Leboouth School Kassar Lassouth Heitteser Hendrich Leboouth Shart Lassouth Heitteser Hendrich Leboouth Shart Lassouth Lass Merson Plant Plant Plant Proport Helder Hisher Toylor Townsen (Iraper Donis Wilees Wilees Ropley Sherwoot Fistered Gollin Di Matte Wise Newoon Peacock Telfer Richards McAlfister (Richards McAlfister) STRIKERS 5 ARS 5 ARS 1 55 AV 1 12 AV 1 12 AV 0 10 NEW 0 52 BLA 0 53 CHE 1 44 Berglem Wright Hartson Yorke Milosevi Johnson Joachim Shearer Surron Vialls 215 9 0 21 14 15 49 13

MRLAN COOPER

MR DAVID MAHER

MR KRISTOV BAERWALD

69 I

691

ATHLETICO ARMCHAIR

THE ELITE OF THE BLITE

TOM AND PHILIP **EASTGATE ROVERS**

المكذا من الأصل إ

Battle of Gorleben sounds the death-knell for Continent's dreams of a fission-fuelled future



Atom convoy diverted as German Swampys tunnel under road

Imre Karacs Gorleben

A watch-tower with reflector lights guards over Camp Gusborn on the front line separating nuclear power from the people. A sign reminds inmates of an alcohol han, and instructs them to keep dogs on a lead.

You might think this canvas Colditz was the creation of the "nuclear state", synonymous in Gorlehen mythology with the police state". In reality, Camp Gushorn's tents provide temporary shelter for 1,200 autonômists, anarchists and dropouts, unsure of their ideology, who set the rules themselves.

Judging by the empty beer bottles and the vacant expressions on the faces of some residents, the han on alcohol and and a disarmingly mild manner.

ciety, straining to maintain a semblance of order even on the brink of anarchy.

They sort their rubbish tucking it away neatly in bags of different colours - and in the evenings endeavour to keep the noise down. These are Swampy's German cousins militant environmentalists who have been digging trenches under a road in an effort to stop nuclear waste reaching its "medium-term" destination.

Ever vigilant of the "police state", they have no names, and cover up the number-plates on their cars. Most of them are young with exotic but clean hairdos, sporting aggressive badges

drugs is flexible. But in all oth- "I came here from Bremen beer respects the tenants are a cause I'm against nuclear powfaithful reflection of German so- er." says a 17-year-old girl. She does not know who runs the camp, has not the faintest idea where the food that is served up to her comes from, and questions about political parties draw a blank. She is here to force the "castors" - the nuclear waste

> A 22-year-old man from Berlin is here "because of the nuclear shit," and also "because this is a great place to meet people". He is unemployed, but couldn't care less about that, or politics or anything else other than nuclear power. Asked to comment on the government's policies, he politely declines.

containers - to turn back.

There are about ten camps nestling among the forests, all

with slightly different tasks and clear waste was loaded on to inhabitants, Near the nuclear trucks vesterday morning, and site at Gorleben are lesbians Gorleben, the who will only participate in sin-The Gusborn residents were gle-sex protests. Their neighbours are the protesters' crack troops, the "Dykes on Bikes", asked by organisers to make the road impassable and by vester-

public disorder, present at every

demonstration whatever the

cause, will be throwing the stones and Molotov cocktails if

Gusborn is about one third

of the way along the road link-

ing Dannenberg, where the nu-

trouble flares today.

who can be despatched to trouble-spots at short notice. day morning had completed the task. At the Splietau Camp near "The road is kaput," said a picket bursting with pride, and the railway terminal of Dannenberg, the emphasis is on pashe was not exaggerating. For a sive resistance. At the other distance of ahout half a mile, extreme, hooded youths dressed in black lurk, biding tunnels had been dug under the tarmac at 30 yard intervals, turning a solid highway into a their time. These veterans of

series of flimsy pontoon bridges.
The excavated earth is heaped on top of the asphalt, the clumpy barricades reinforced at intervals with bits of concrete and the gaps fifled with bales of straw which can be lit as the convoy approaches.

The 100-tonne lotries will not come this way, however, thanks to Camp Gusborn. The tent dwellers, their jobs well done, were loafing about yesterday awaiting new instructions.

With their road out of action, the attendon of police and pro-testers alike switched to one of the few alternative routes, a mile north of Gusborn, Here, along the so-called Quickborn route, a thousand activists tried to seize the road yesterday afternoon, but were driven back at every attempt

Last night, convoys of police vans, prison lorries and water cannon were racing towards Dannenberg as the final battle loomed. The trucks carrying the nuclear waste are less than 20 miles from Gorleben, but their journey will not be simple.

Europe dims the lights on nuclear power

Nicholas Schoon

Environment Correspondent Nuclear power may well be gone from the European Union within the next 30 years. Across the 15 member states, this controversial energy source is now nearly a decade into a gradual but apparently terminal decline. Only the French are still building new atomic power stations. But even France has a

moratorium on any fresh con-struction starts until 2000. No other nation has any realistic, government-endorsed plans for new reactors. The main reasons for the rejection are the expense compared with other forms of electricity generation (mainly coal, oil and gas) and public fears about safety.

In nearly 40 years of civil nuclear power in Western Europe. there has been not been a single disaster. The only serious accident happened in Windscale. Cumbria in 1957, when a military reactor used to make plu-tonium for Britain's nuclear weapons caught fire. And yet there are still fundamental, unanswered questions about how to deal with nuclear power's radioactive wastes, which remain lethal for tens of thousands of years.

"I can't conceive of the circumstances for any new orders," said Steve Thomas, an energy researcher at Sussex University's Science Policy Research Unit. "The technology is now 20 years old and the regufators will want something a lot better. And who would pay?" More than one-quarter of

Europe's electricity comes from

nuclear plants - three-quarters in the case of France. It therefore cannot be shut overnight. Across the continent, operators are seeking to keep their ageing reactors going for as long as safety regulators and gov-eraments allow them - 23, 30, maybe 40 or more years - in nr-der to recoup the massive building investment and delay the high costs of decommissioning.

In a 1980 referendum, Sweden

er. The plan was to close the first of the 12 plants in 1985 and the last by 2005. But so far not one has shut and the date of final clo-

sure has been put back to 2010. France has 57 functioning nuclear power stations; it has a surfeit of electricity and nucleargenerated power is one of its larger exports. Next comes Germany with 19 operational stations, producing some 30 per cent of its electricity. The last order for a new plant was made 15 years ago, and three plants have

In a European nuclear industry dominated by stateowned utilities, the United Ringdom is unusual. Most of its 14 plants have now been sold to the private sector, along with the rest of the electricity industry. and private industry sees no way of building economically viable new reactors.

Italy's three nuclear power stations were killed off after a 1987 referendum came down

← No nation but France has any realistic plans for new reactors 9

against atomic energy. Spair abandoned construction of four plants in 1984, but it still has nine operating plants providing one-third of the country's electricity, and one which has closed. Austria only ever built one station, and that never went into operation because of

a referendum rejection. Belgium has seven plants and gets about half of its electricity from nuclear power while Finland, with four plants, is 30 per cent fission-powered. The Netherlands has two small plants operating. None of Poriugal, Ireland, Greece, Denmark, and Luxemburg ever voted to abandon nuclear pow- went nuclear.

Engineers must be aged 18 or over, in order to saleguerd our customers, certain transactions may require written confirmation. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. First Direct receit techties are subject to status. For written details of our services writes for First Direct is a division of Middland Bank pic, Cells may be monitored and/or recorded, LLOYDS Cheque Account details are based on the Classic Account. The costs comprise tess of E9 per month. BARCLAYS Cheque Account details are based on the Bankhy's Bank Account. The costs comprise tess of E9 per month. BARCLAYS Cheque Account, NAT WISST Cheque Account details are based on the Current Pius Account. The costs comprise field of E9 per month. All fees may vary in the future. First Direct variable interest table for overdrates up to 5250 is 12,6% EAR, All information based on authorised overdrates of 5 days or more per month and correct at 25 February 1997. Member HSBC *** Correct Account Accou

Why pay to bank when we are free?

harges
£108.00
£96.00
£60.00
20.00
the right bank?
24 24
and post to:
11

the hour we'll give you £10." The AA or RAC won't. CHOOSE FROM 5 LEVELS OF COVER-Recovery anty £29.50 £38,00 Roadside assistance £69.00 £93.00 Comprehensive Gold £145.00 Tatal protection Call free now on

If we don't reach you within

0800 001 353 quoting ref A3109 Green Flag

WE LEAVE FYERYOME STANDING BUT YOU 197 are subject to an additional fee of £15 chance will be essent.

Renewing your home insurance in March or April?

If you are 50 or over, you could save with Saga call us NOW

SAGA Home Insurance can offer you genuine savings over other policies, while giving you cover that fully protects your home and possessions.

The Saga Price Promise If you find another comparable policy at a lower price within 2 months of taking out SAGA Home Insurance, we will refund you the

difference. See Services Ltd., FREETOST 13



Insurance cover is comprehensive and Discounts for home

security Free pen with your

quotation

Call us today For your free no obligation quote simply call us on the number below. We will be pleased to answer any questions you have on SAGA Home Insurance.

0800 414 525 Quoting reference ID3701

Midland The Listening Bank

Member HSBC Grown

you will need to cash it in during the five year terin. If you do you may not get back your original investment and you will not benefit from any rise in the FT-SE 100 Index. Calls may be monutred or recorded. Applications accepted from 13/3/97. We reserve the right to withdraw this offer at any time. Simon is a fictional character but his scory is based on a neal Mulland customer. BO/46



Meet Simon.

Simon would like better stock-market returns without taking more stock-market risks.

Simon likes a hit of excitement, but he's not very keen on risk. So unsurprisingly he's very in Midland's Capital Protected Personal Equity Plan. Like traditional PEPs, it's a

way to benefit from stock-market growth without paying income or capital gains tax. Unlike traditional PEPs, however, Simon will get back all his initial investment plus a fixed return

of 20% on his capital at the end of five years". even if the stock market falls. Which adds up to a better deal than his building society is likely to offer him. Simon described it as "having my cake and eating it or something like that.



He'll have to return his lication by 3rd April to invest la lhis lax year.





For further details please complete the coupon and send to: Midland Bank plc, CPP, FREFPOST BS4335, Bristol, BS1 3YX. Title Address County



Are you a Midfand customer? Tyes No. If so, please fill in your sort code. 40/__/_ Are you happy to receive information from Midtand in the future? 🗌 Yes 📋 No

Peasants pay with their lives in secret war against Zapatistas

Assassinations. kidnappings and torture are turning Chiapas into a powder keg, writes Phil Davison in San Cristobal

With Mexico's Zapatista guer-rillas trapped in the Lacandon jungle, the Mexican government and army is waging a "secret, low-intensity war against suspected Zapatista supporters. mainly poverty-stricken Indian

de las Casas

peasants. Human rights officials say paramilitary groups, armed and backed by the military and police, have assassinated an average five peasants a day over the last few months in the southeastern state of Chiapas, where the Zapatista rebels rose up in 1994 and have widespread

Peasants have also been thrown off their land, detained and tortured if they are suspected of even sympathising with the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), the

officials say.

The incidents have turned Chiapas, particularly the north-ern part of the state, into a powder keg. Locals talk of the potential for civil conflict in the run-up to nationwide legislative elections in July. Communities are split between support for Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) of President Ernesto Zedillo and the centre-left Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), the Zapatista rebels.

The presence of tens of thousands of troops in the state has added to the tension.

In the community of Agua Blanca, troops and police re-cently arrived by helicopter to harass women working in cof-fee plantations, according to one eyewitness. The security forces. known to locals as the BOM (an acronym for Joint Operation Force), said they were looking for weapons. When they found none, they forced the women to rifles, the witness said.



Cover up; Zapatista guerrillas, headed by Comandante Tacho (centre), leaving San Cristobel for a meeting in La Realidad village Photograph: Popperioto/Reuters

BOM detained any of the women or were simply threatening them with future arrest if they had anything to do with the

Zapatistas, The frontline war lasted only 12 days with the Zapatista uprising of January 1994," said Pablo Romo of the Fray Bartolome Centre, a leading independent human rights group which defends Chiapas's native Mayan Indians. "Now, it is a secret war of low intensity, a psychological war. There have

EZLN sympathisers, human rights groups or social workers." At least to firebombs or molotov cocktails have been thrown at the offices of human rights groups in San Christobal

over the past five weeks. A leading human rights activist. Javier Lopez Montoya, was kidnapped with his wife and children last November and has not been A colleague of Mr Romo at

the Fray Bartolome Centre. Jose Montero, was wounded in the arm when gunmen in civilian clothes opened fire on his shoutings aimed at suspected car last month. Mr Montero said given military training and were been seen for weeks, his image Zapatistas.

he saw uniformed police with the gunmen.

Mr Lomo and Mr Montero say they are in no doubt that the gunmen belonged to the so-called Paz y Justicia (Peace and Justice) group which they describe as paramilitary. The group is made up of hardline PRI supporters, led by the party's legislator in Chiapas. amuel Sanchez, and reportedly armed and hacked by the army

Ex-members of Peace and Justice were quoted here this

Zapatistas". Peace talks between the

Mexican government and the EZLN have been stalled since last September. The guerrilla leader, Subcomandante Marcos, known for his black balaclava and pipe, remains in hiding in the Lacandon jungle east of here with several hundred men. His supporters believe he is planning a new operation, more likely to be a propaganda coup than a military assault.

You can buy a Marcos T-shirt for £4, a Marcos balaciava for £1, a Marcos-doll key ring for

40p or a Marcos clock for £5. And on the edge of the june, his men still rule the roost although they are blocked by the army from moving west. One of Marcos's top aides. Comandante Tacho, organised a culture show in rebel-controlled territory this week which featured US folk-rock group The Indigo Girls and a group of American Indians who performed a fire

Deng 'regretted' attack on Tiananmen protesters

Deng Xiaoping bitterly regretted the brutal crushing of pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in 1989, according to Chinese sources quoted yesterday by the

Japanese Kyodo news agency.

The late Chinese leader, who was head of the Central
Military Commission on the day troops opened fire on
unarmed protesters, 4 June 1989, was quoted as saying that
the action was "the most regrettable event" of his life.

According to Kyodo's Immamed Chinese sources, Deng According to Kyodo's unnamed Chinese sources, Deng said he had been forced into a harsh response to the

"We couldn't help at the time but take the most active response," Deng is alleged to have said. Agencies - Tokyo agai Pek

.

Barrier L. Ger ett auf

William Committee Throng Park Martin

Contract Food and Marin

1.11

'Brain destruction' by junta

Ethiopia's former Marxist rulers made a deliberate effort to destroy educated people in the country, a witness said in a genocide trial. The witness was testifying at the trial of 71 former Ethiopian Marrist officials accused of genocide and crimes against humanity. All 71 could be sentenced to death if found guilty. I am of the opinion that killings undertaken by the Dergue, the military junta in Ethiopia, were aimed at a brain destruction," the witness, a former educator who cannot be named under court rules, told the

Cambodia murder arrests

Three members of Cambodia's largest opposition party have been arrested in the murder of Second Premier Hun Sen's brother-in-law. The arrests could raise tensions between Hun Sen's formerly communist Cambodian. People's Party and its most vocal critic, the Khmer Nation Party, a key member of a political alliance challenging the CPP in elections next year.

AP - Pinom Peni

Bullfight fiestas go ahead

Eager to avoid cancelling two of Spain's most famous hullfighting festivals, the industry's main federation agreed yesterday to end a two-day old strike that had put the country's "national fiesta" on hold.

The federation's decision means bullfight fans will be able to enjoy the rest of this week's Magdalena Festival in Castellon and the Las Fallas festival in Valencia, which begins on Priday. The festivals are the first major events of Spain's bullfighting season. AP - Madri

Nigerians charged with sedition

Eight lecturers at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, have been charged with sedition and arson and face possible life sentences if convicted, the independent Vanguard

The cight, including a professor, were among 18 people detained last month after student riots. Reuters - Lagos

Women wear the trousers again

The Brazilian Senate has lifted a 17-year ban on women wearing slacks in the legislative chamber. The spokesman said the upper house's new president, Senator Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, who took over at the start of the legislative year in mid-February, had ended the trouser

prohibition because it "no longer made any sense". Trousers were banned for women in the Senate in 1980 and they were required to wear dresses and slorts. It's not quite clear why," he said:

Reuters - Brasili

Civilians emerge after army's rape of Kindu

Matthew Tostevin

Kindu. Zaire - Hundreds of people emerged from forest hideous around the looted eastern Zairean town of Kindu yesterday, days after Zairean soldiers retreated and rebels captured it.

Kindu, most of which is on the western bank of the broad, rust-red Zaire river, was looted by retreating soldiers last week and next by civilians who stole anything left, residents told iournalists who were flown in by the rebels aboard a DC-3.

Hundreds of people with betongings piled on their heads came out of forest hideouts and trekked past the airport and into town, saving they fled looting as

hattle at the airport and much of the town was scurred more by looting than by bullets.

Everyone joined in. All I took was a carton of mineral water," said Joseph Baroani in Kindu, which residents said was captured by rebels who crossed the river in boats on Sat-

They said that after Zairean troops left, along with five white mercenaries, including two who spoke French. Kindu was defended by a 177-strong contin-gent of former Rwandan Hutu

One of the mercenaries had been shot in the leg, they said. Pascal Mwimba, head of the Zaire Red Cross in Kindu, said t1 former Rwandan troops were killed in fighting for the

There were no visible signs of town and three children were out. Most of my family is still at the airport and much killed when a mortar bomb there." said student Muinvi killed when a mortar bomb hit thei*r hom*e. Mr Mwimba said the town

was short of food and drugs. Everything was looted. In the hospital we don't have any drugs or equipment, not even aspirin." he told reporters.

Ahout a quarter of the stalls in the main market were open and cheering women showered visiting journalists with rice, saying they were pleased that the fighting was over.

"As you can see, there is no doubt that Kindu has been liberated." Jacques Lukumani, the new rebel information commissioner in Kindu, told reporters at the town's airport.

Two-thirds of the people who fled are still in the forest, and only now are they coming Soumaili as she walked back

Rebel officers said they captured most of Kindu on Sunday and Zairean troops scattered into the forest and headed west. Kindu is 200 miles west of the

border with Rwanda and 250 miles south of Kisangani, the capital of north-eastern Zaire and centre for army operations in the region.

What the Zaircan soldiers did was terrible. We are very happy to have been liberated, said Masengo Masongo, a res-

The rebels said on Friday that they had seized part of the town but the claim was denied by the Defence Ministry in

Sodexno Gardner Merchant

Sodexho

Gardner Merchant

Partena

Sodexho

Gardner Merchant

Sodexho

Van Hecke

Sodexho

Gardner Merchant

Sodexho

Gardner



"We take care of people." That's why our alliances succeed".

Salvage team set fair to identify Blackbeard's ship exposed by last autumn's hur-ricanes in the region. All being

Rupert Cornwell Washington

There is almost certainly no pirate's treasure - no pieces of eight nor gold doubloons - to be found in the 18th-century wreck just off the North Carolina coast, but that does not stop American marine archaeologists from calling the longlost ship the most important discovery of its kind in 2ft years.

And small wonder. The vessel, they believe, is what remains of the Queen Anne's Revenge. the flagship of the notorious pirate Blackbeard, which foundered on a sandbar at the entrance of Beaufort Injet har-

bour in June 1718. We haven't absolutely identified it." said Jelfrey Crow. the head of North Carolina's Department of Cultural resources, which oversaw the project. "hut all indications are that | this is the Queen Anne's

Among those indications, retrieved by divers working in shape, and there's a pile of



cannon still down there." Mike minimal visibility, is a foot-tall brass bell bearing the date Daniels, one of the divers, said. 1709, the barrel of a cannon, a The find is the climax of a lead sounding-weight and a decade's search at a site first blunderbuss, the short-barsuggested by a map in a 1719 refled muzzle-loading tirearm

book recounting a pirate trial. Finally, the archaeologists hit on a small piece uf wood sticking up from the sand, perhaps bowsprit of a ship.

well, much more of the vesse is still intact under a protective layer of sand. However, according to historical documents, the pirate

took the treasure from the wreck before he left for shore. Blackbeard, whose real name was Edward Teach, is legendary for his swagger and for his gargantuan appetites, but above all for his cruelty and bru-

tality. Berween 1716 and 1718 he terrorised the Caribbean and the coasts of the Carolinas - until the Queen Anne's Revenge ran aground as it returned from a week's blnckade of Charleston, 250 miles to the

The pirate would only outlive his ship by five months. On 22 November 1718 he was killed by English troops in a battle at Okraçoke in the North Carolina barrier islands, and his head displayed from the

ا مكذا من الأصل

internationa

China's Muslims sharpen knives against Peking

So anear

in travers

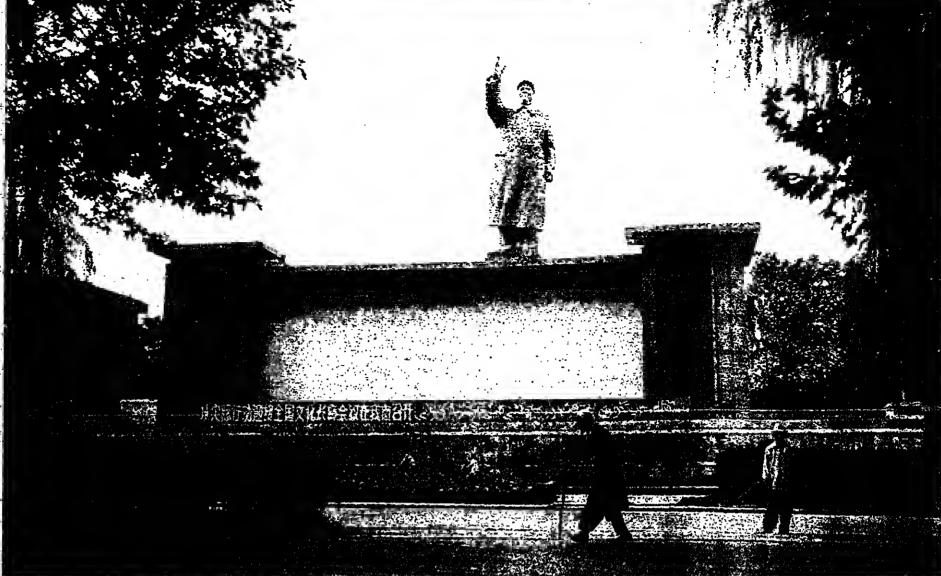
The bombs in the western Chinese province of Xinjiang in recent weeks, have hit the world headlines. But the violence and tensions - including the latest blast, reported yesterday - are

nothing new in this volume region. During the Islamic festival of Korban last April, when each household sacrifices a sheep, a place, which remained unreported. Nine regional separatists surrounded the country home of a local Uighur leader in the town of Kugar. They threw a grenade through the window before storming the house. Finding the man inside with his wife, his younger brother and brother's wife, they cut out the tongues of all four and slit their throats. Thus the trai-

The leader was accused of "letting down the Uighur people and failing to properly represent them". In other words, be was judged to be a tool of the Chinese government.

The army was at the scene almost immediately. Finding themselves surrounded, the nine men blew themselves up with grenades.

. In the wake of the killings, ofbloody and dramatic event took ficial documents urgently recommended that the new railway planned to link Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, to Kashgar in the Uighur heartland of the south be completed within the next three years. Large numbers of Han Chinese - the dominant, "mainstream" Chinese - were to be moved into the area to stabilise unrest. The document warned: "So far we have been too soft on the locals. From now on, we will start to get tough."



Culture clash: An elderly Lighur man hobbling past a statue of Chairman Mao in Kashgar, to which Han Chinese head in their thousands

Nationalists say they planted bus bombs

thinly veiled the cultural clashes

and inequalities in the new

society geared exclusively towards Hans. Not only is the

Han Chinese love of pork con-sidered "unclean" by Muslim

Uighurs, but the Chinese ten-

dency to kill and eat anything

Uighurs are frequently known

to quote the Hans own saying

moves is also apported.

Yuri Kushko, Reuter

1980s, culminating in last month's riots in Yining when Uighur youths took to the Almaty - Muslim Uighur nationalists claimed responsibility yesterday for a se-ries of bus bombings last week in northstreets beating up Han Chinese and burning their bodies. Young Uighurs grow up with a keen hawestern China and for a similar, tred for the steadily increasing numbers of Chinese migrants. previously unreported attack on Monday.

A Chinese government official in the restive region of Xinjiang denied there had been a new blast on Munday, bowever. A spokesman for Uighur exiles suggested last week that the A spokesman for Uighur exiles said in Almaty, capital of neighbouring Kazadeath of Deng Xiaoping will bring a power struggle within the Chinese élite. He predicted: "If that happens, the independence khstan, said the acts were in reprisal for deaths and arrests during a Chinese movement in Turkestan will inclampdown on the separatist movement

over the past month. "We intend to continue our struggle."

told he was "filthy" and asked why he didn't "go off and get on

his donkey cart?" The Uighur replied that he would love to.

only be couldn't as the Hans had

eaten all their donkeys. The ap-

Mukhiddin Mukhlisi added, saying three exife groups had joined forces after po-lice and army killed 127 Uighurs and arrested hundreds more.

An official in Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang province, said at the weekend that seven people had died and 60 were hurt in three -bomb explosions on buses in the city on 24 February, coinciding with funeral rites for Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping. Mr Mukhlisi sald he did not know how

tack on Monday on a bus travelling to Urumqi from Yining, near the Kazakh border. The blast occurred 120km (75 miles) east of Yining, he said. "The explosion in the bus near the town

bring a power stroggle within the Chinese

things with four legs, the only thing they don't eat is tables."

The Uighurs regard the Han

Chinese as introverted people

changes, opportunities have be-

come few and far between for

Han migrants arrive in Xinjiang.

many victims there were in the latest at-

of Kuldji (Yining) ... was our act of revenge for the crimes of the Chinese anthurities," Mr Mukhlisi said. However, a government official in Yin-

ing said by telephone: "It's peaceful here. There was no new bomb attack." A spokesman for Uighur exiles in Russia, Sargari Tarym, said last week in Muscow: "We think Deng's death will

élite. If that happens, the independence movement in Turkestan will intensify." Mr Makhlisi said Peking had launched "hundred days anti-separatist campaign" against Uighur nationalists who want to establish an independent "East Turkestan" bomeland.

residential areas, but it is rarely

the Uighurs who get to live

there. Job discrimination is rou-

tine: when an Urumoi academ-

While Chinese-imposed hirth

tention for rebels in the strongly

considered Uighurs."

ethnic opposition among intel-lectuals in the modernising north of Xinjiang. So who will he the champions of the cause for Uighuristan, the longawaited homeland of the oncenomadic Muslim Uighurs?

Photograph: Nicola Beckley

The older generation are too scared of the repercussions and of a return to worsened poverty and famine. They still bear the scars of Mao Tse-tung's Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution. They shrink from the anger growing in their children and look on anxiously. In the words of one Uighur: "Young people are unable to look ahead. We older ones can see things in the long term. we re not so impeluous.

it remains to be seen whether the younger ones can overcome traditional disagreements between oasis towns, and between north and south. A migrant worker from Aksu living in Unumqi be-lieves they can: "When it comes to the crucial hour, Uighurs will come together."

Meanwhile, long lines of Chi Uighurs. Every day, hundreds of control remains a bone of conwhen expressing their disgust:
"Of things that fly, the only thing they don't eat is aeroplanes. Of

The Chinese are building new often hard by government incentives of bousing and jobs. The Chinese are building new market is the main catalyst of nebody forgets who is in charge.

An Alliance of Achievement

Contract Food and Management Services - Remote Site Management - Service Vouchers - Leisure Services

Highlights of Chairman Pierre Bellon's message to the Annual Meeting of Sodexho Shareholders on February 25, 1997.

1 - IN FISCAL 1995/96, SODEWHO MAINTAINED GROWTH IN SALES. REPORTED GOOD EARNINGS AND EXCEEDED OBJECTIVES

1	
At Aug. 31, 1996	% Grows
- 24,961	. 36 % ⁽⁴⁾
1,124	20 of m
685Pa.	_
7,371,190	5%
92,92	129%
13,512**	
141,118	
	At Assy, 31, 1996 24,961 1,124 6859 7,371,190 92,92 13,512*

(1) Of which 24 percent due to the consolidation of Gardner Merchant over 12 months (2) Of which 33 percent due to the consolidation of Gardner Merchant over 12 months (3) Of which FRF 204 million in non-recurring items (4) Including Partene, accounted for by the equity method.

N - OUTLOOK

1.85

D

For 1996/97, I indicated at the last Board meeting that, based on currently available data and assuming constant exchange rates, consolidated net income before exceptional items less minority interest should reach FRF 500,000,000. This would represent growth of 25 percent, with earnings per share galating 23 percent. Today, I can confirm this increase.

Looking out to the medians-term, prospects are favorable for all of our businesses. Remote Site Management services, including those provided in French overseas departments and possessions, should account for around seven percent of consolidated operating income in 1996/97.

Service Vouchers have taken an increasingly important role in our earnings stream in recent years. In 1996/97, the business will contribute around 15 percent of Leisure Services include river cruises and catering for some of the world's most

prestigious events. The river cruises business is experted to contribute three percent of consolidated operating income in 1996/97. Penitrentiary Institutions are managed primarily in the United States, but also in France and Australia. Excluding CCA, which is not consolidated, this business should represent around one percent of consolidated 1996/97 operating income. Food and Management Services are our largest business, which will account for erous and management are trace and on majors who may will account for around 90 percent of 1965/97 sales and 74 percent of operating income for the period. Our objective is to strengthen our position as global market leader.

- PATHS TO PROGRESS All our businesses enjoy strong potential for expansion, but to transform this potential into actual growth in sales and earnings, we are pursuing the paths to progress defined four years ago.

Continuously improve client satisfaction through a commitment to quality

 Develop our bourse capital, by : - Encouraging the emergence of entrepreneurs among our employees.

- Focusing sharply on biring, training and motivating our unit managers. - Enabling employees to share in the Group's financial performance. Strengthen managerial efficiency, by: Enhancing and deepening strategic thinking

jostied a Chinese on a bus was parently humorous exchange

- Using our size to lower the cost of purchased goods and services. Developing integrated management information systems.

.The disturbance is just one of

a growing number of outbursts

of violence since the early

tensify." The Turkic-speaking

Uighur nationalists want to es-

tablish an independent "East

Hundreds, sometimes thou-sands of Han Chinese arrive dai-

aden with their life's belong-

ings. Tensions erupt easily. An Dighur man who accidentally

at Urumol railway station

Turkestan" homeland.

IV - OUR GROWTH PHILOSOPHY

Our corporate mission is clear: to satisfy our clients, to meet the expectations of our employees and shareholders, and to participate in the economic and social development of our host countries. Organic growth

To carry out this mission, we are committed to increasing our sales and earnings, because growth provides for greater job security, allows us to promote from within and creates more shareholder value. Our primary strategic tocus is on internal growth, but in recent years we have supported this development with external

External growth (alliances and acquisitions)

Our international alliances On February 1, 1995, the alliance with Gardner Marchant made us the world's act food services group. On January 2, 1996, the alliance with Pertena, Sweden's leading management services company, strengthened our position in the Nortic countries. In February 1996, we acquired an equity interest in Cardapio, Brazil's third largest service wonder issue; which we now manage. This gave us access to what is today the largest voucher market in the world.

Our alliance philosophy Societus operates in service activities which, while not very capital intensive, are highly people-intensive, lodeed, our growth is driven almost entirely by the skills and dedication of individual men and wemen. While it is possible to purchase factories, machines, processes and technology, you cannot buy the comm hearts and minds of a company's people.

Taks is why the experience gained by the Group in its external growth over the past five years has taught us to respect the history, culture and personalities of the individuals that join our corporate community. It is this philosophy that has guided our recept affiances and that will continue to guide us in the affiances to come. To symbolize the reality and success of our international alliances, we have changed the name of the Sodersho SA holding company to Sodersho Alliance. As part of the changeover, we have also designed a new logo with five stars, representing our presence on the five main continents and the superior quality service provided by Sodesho's 141,000 employees around the world.

V - DIVEDEND

The dividend for 1995/96 has been set at FRF 25.00 per share, net of tax credit, representing income of FNF-39.00 per share including tex credit. It will be paid as of March 5, 1997. Total payout an assume to FNF-192 millions, a 24 percent increase from 1994/95. It conesponds to 48 percent of the considered net income before non-recurring items less minority interests reported for the year.

Our independence, our global reach, the quality of our teams, and our excellent financial position all provide us with important competitive advantages. The Group's outlook is favorable and in the years to come, we foresee good property in sales and earnings, as seed as a steady increase in earnings per share.



For further information, please contact: Raphael DUBRULE - Corporate Secretary Phone: +33 1 30 85.74 74 - Fex: +33 1 30 85 50 05 - Internet : http://www.sodesho.com

Korean enemies gather for talks

who fail to share their passions ic fluent in Chinese approached for music, dance and hedonism.

As the social structure services, he was told: "We hadn't

Andrew Marshall Seoul

New efforts begin today to end one of the Cold War's last remaining confrontations - the division of the Korean peninsula.

New York will be the venue for a meeting intended to kick off a series of four-party talks between North and South Korea. China and the United States. Today, South Korea and the US will detail their plans for the gatherings at a "briefing" meeting with North Korea. It has been difficult enough to get

a team of North Korean officials has already arrived, as has the North demanding that he be reteam from Seoul, and the ex- turned to Pyongyang and the pectation is that the meeting will

take place as planned. The encounter comes at a time of maximum instability in North Korea. The death or departure from office of a number of key figures in the regime seems to indicate a power struggle as Kim Jong II, son of longtime dictator Kim Il Sung. seeks to underpin his authority.

A senior defector from

hoped the crisis could be resolved soon, and expectations are still high in Seoul that he will arrive in the next seven days. The defection has sparked a war of words between Seoul and Pyongyang, with the South

embassy in Peking, with the

South that he he allowed to go

to Seoul, as he has requested.

China said yesterday that it

claiming that the death of Kim Il Sung resulted from a heart at-

Pyongyang to attend this meet-ing - it has cancelled twice; but boled up in the South Korean son. The North has riposted angrily, claiming that Scoul is act-

ing provocatively.

There is clearly some nervousness in Seoul about the military situation, with security at government buildings increased and a security exercise underway yesterday. The North's economy is collapsing, with food due to run out in the spring and international food aid insufficient to fill the gap. China is reported by the South Korean media to have established shelters for fleeing North Koreans.

White ghosts fade as society. takes on a new complexion

HOMG KONG DAYS.

The pony-tailed Britan, his Tshirt wet with alcohol, stumbled down the steps of Joe Bananas nightchih, close to the red-light district of Wan Chai, laughed and then stooped low and threw up noisily into the kerb.

The taxi driver nodded at him

and sniffed. "Mah fahn-a (trou-ble)." he said, dismissively. "To think that 40 years ago they were beating us with sticks." It is safe to say that Britain's place in Hong Kong high society is not what it was. Britons may be pouring into the colony

8 **63** 9 9

every year because Hong Kong to witness the setting of the sun on the last bastion of their emsociety is very dynamic, but the pire, but as far as the social hasic makeup has changed a great deal. Take charity halls, scene is concerned, the real handover has already happened. which are the bedrock of high Whereas 20 years ago Hong society. Whereas, before, the Kong's finest events were likefundraising committee would be ly to be studded with the mer-

chant princes of Jardines and Swires, the two great British hongs, Hong Kong Tatler laid today's situation bare with its 1997 in point. Held at the Grand Hy-"Guide to the Social Season". an ballroom, with a modest 35 tables, its organising com-Of its "500 most prominent people", white faces make up a mittee comprised a Chiu, a intle over 10 per cent, and only a handful are British. According

to Ong Chin Huat, social editor of the magazine, the change has been swift. "I've been at Hong In Hong Kong's new society Kong Tatler for five years and I such amounts do not raise any 140,000 voices".

it, to bring in more Chinese

was the first Chinese to be hired eyehrows. "You mustn't forget in the editorial department. The that if you compare it with England, Hong Kong is not a welfare state. There's no NHS. pictures then were 80 per cent expats and 20 per cent ... Chinese," he said. "When I arrived no unemployment benefit, so I was given a mandate to change elderly or handicapped people

are in need. So that's why so

faces." Circulation, said Mr
Ong, who is himself featured in
the list, subsequently shot up.
"We change the top 500 mg said, adding: "It's also because of Hong Kong taxes. Giving to charity is tax-deductable." To be pictured in Hong Kong Tailer at such events is a marker of one's position. "Hong Kong Tader is very high society, like English Tatler ... We only feature the top, top people."

In fact. Hong Kong Tailer was a little too like the English made up of expat women, now it's local Chinese." The Operation Concern gala dinner last September is a case court settlement. Even this has Kwok, a Chan, a Cheng, a darin robes - perhaps more Chow, a Lee, a Ma and a Yang. The evening raised around HK\$3.3m (£270,000).

Tatler - a fact that elicited a law suit and a subsequent out-ofproved formitous. Now, instead of Tatler's distinctive British "spy" figure. Hong Kong Tader's logo features a man in Manpolitically correct in these times. in which, as legislator Christine Loh noted this week, "a sneeze from China matters more than

Perhaps tellingly, a large pro-portion of HK. Tutler's 500 are said to have interests in or "good relations with" China.

"The movers and shakers are people like Li Ka Shing (the head of the Cheung Kong-Hutchison group and secondrichest man in the territory), or the Kuck family towners of the Shangri-la hotels and the South China Morning Post). "They are the hig, hig money," said Mr Ong. And in Hong Kong, money is the bottom line.

One regular on the social scene. Sophic Benge, said that these days gweilos, (white ghosts) are "very much in the minority" at many social events. "But many events are held by consumer hrands and the Chinese are who they are marketing to." she said. She cites the example of a recent event held jointly by Hermes, the Paris-based fashion house, and John Lobb, the London shoemakers, together with entrepreneur David Tang.

There were only Chinese people there," she said. "You're much more likely to see Britons down at Joe Bananas now. They've come to work at the [new] airport."

Jojo Moyes

CB

obituaries / gazette

Kenneth Rowntree

Collectors of the King Penguin books, begun during the Second World War under the editorship and interiors in Bedfordshire, of Nikolaus Pevsner, may remember with gratitude and de-light no 43 in the series. A Prospect of Wales. Published in 1948, it contained a text by Gwyn Jones, and reproductions of some 20 watercolours and a cover by Kenneth Rowntree. The illustrations show Rowntree at his best: taut, ecouomical, with a feeling for the geometry in landscape, whether innate or imposed.

Rowntree's Wales is a hardedged world of slate and stone. of country chapels, miners' cottages, abandoned lead works, hill farms, remote schools and dry-stone walls. His eye for the ordinary and overlooked is as sharp as it is for the less familiar. Lettering, incised on tombstones or colourfully inscribed on shop froms, is lovingly recreat-ed: traffic signs, telegraph poles and other man-made structures become equally arresting elements in the composition.

Rowntree's gift for evoking a particular place had been fully exploited between 1940 and 1943 when he was one of more than 60 artists commissioned by the Government and financed by the Pilgrim Trust to record the face of England and Wales he-fore development or wartime destruction changed it beyond recognition. "Recording Britain" as this remarkable project came to be known, covered a total of 36 counties. Rowntree con-

and interiors in Bedfordshire, Essex. Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Wales. (He was born in Yorkshire and lived from 1942 to 1949 in Essex - at Great Bardfield, where Edward Bawden and Eric Ravilious had shared a house in the Thirties and where Bawden continued to live until long after the war.) A recent exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, which assumed responsibility for the 1.500 or so watercolours in the "Recording Britain" project, revealed that Rowntree's choice of quirky subject matter and keen sense of design made him

the ideal interpreter of some of

the more unusual aspects of our

huilt heritage.

After the war, Rowntree's topographical interests led him to collaborate with Clough and Amabel Williams Ellis on their
"Vision of England" series, illustrating the volumes dealing
with Norfolk and the Isle of Wight and designing the cover for Sussex (which had illustra-tions by his friend and Essex neighbour Michael Rothenstein). In 1951 Rowntree painted murals for the Lion and Unicorn Pavilion at the Festi-val of Britain. His love of English vernacular art was behind his undertaking later in the decade, while teaching at the Ruskin School of Drawing, to paint portraits of the decorat-

ed barges belonging to Oxford

colleges. "As he was painting

one of them," a friend recalls, "it began to move. Kenneth was at first puzzled, thought his drawing incorrect, then discovered it was actually sinking.
They were so old that they have disappeared now, but Kenneth painted most if not all of them.

Kenneth Rowntree was born at Scarborough in 1915 into a Quaker family. He was edu-caled at Bootham School, York, and trained at the Ruskin School of Drawing, where he was taught briefly by Erie Ravilious, and at the Slade School of Fine Art in London. With his wife Diana Buckley, later the architectural correspondent of the Guardian, he lived for the first couple of years of the war in the Lawn Road Flats in Hampstead, designed by Wells Coates in the International

After the war he taught painting at the Royal College of Art. In 1959 he was appointed to succeed Lawrence Gowing as Professor of Fine Art at Newcastle University, one of the most progressive art schools in Britain, where the teaching staff included Victor Pasmore and Richard Hamilton. He held this post until his retirement in 1980, It was at Newcastle that he became receptive to various modernist idioms, such as assemblage and constructivist forms, and incorporated them in his own work. In the 1960s he collaborated with the architect Ernő Goldfinger on coloured-

glass screens for the entrance halls of the Ministry of Health huilding at Elephant & Castle. Between 1946 and 1970 he had five one-man exhibitions in London. In the last two decades of his life a number of retrospectives were held in the north of England, usually with incisive catalogue introductions by the current Professor of Fine Art at Newcastle, John Milner.

In the Sixties, Rowntree was a member, together with Quentin Bell and Claude Rogers, of the committee set up to look into university applica-tions in fine art. In his *Elders and* Betters (1995), Bell recollected:

We met for dinner and usually man-aged to transact some quite useful business before the first course was caten, but thereafter Kenneth and Claude began, in a jovial way, to abuse each other, to raise their voices and to dissolve in uproarious laughter. When the other two ... professors finally staggered away in op-posite directions they agreed that any remaining business should be dealt

All who knew Kenneth Rowntree will testify not only to his abundant enthusiasm for life and its pleasures, but also to his hospitality, generosity of spirit. and conspicuous modesty about his own achievements.

Richard Calvocoressi

Kenneth Rowntree, artist and teacher: born Scarborough 14 March 1915; married 1939 Diana Buckley (one son, one daughter); died Hexham, Northumberland 21 February 1997.



Don Porter

The villain of Robert Redford's trenchant film The Candidate (1972) was Crocker Jarmon, a ruthless, corrupt, United States senator, who, in a memorable scene, stirred his supporters with a speech in which he feigned sincerity with practised conviction. "The actor giving a heautiful performance of Jar-mon giving a beautiful perfor-mance," wrote John Coleman in the New Statesman, "turns out to be a sound bit-player. Don Porter, a vaguely familiar face from other movies, but one I would have been hard put to give a name to." At the time he made The Candidate, Porter was a veteran of more than two dozen films, some 200 plays and countless television shows.

Born in Oklahoma, Porter was three when his father died in a road accident. Educated in his home state, as well as in Nebraska and Oregon, the 14 Anderson's Elizabeth the Queen year-old Don joined the Oregon National Guard, claiming to be 18. By the time he actually was 18. he had been commissioned pearance in Mystery of the White

Great footballers fall into two

categories: those with dazzling

talent, and those who week in.

week out have been great club

stalwarts, perhaps never reach-

ing international heights, but

serving the game with distinction

and justifiably winning the last-

ing affection of their home

crowds and communities. Such a one was Buthby Parker, for 46

years associated with Tynecas-

tle Park, and the Heart of Mid-

lothian Football Club - as a

young player, club captain, train-

er, coach, scout, manager, chair-

Parker was never to gain full

Scottish international honours.

This was because it was his mis-

man, and director until 1993.



Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

a licutenant. He was by then a professional actor as well, having started playing dramatic parts at 17 on local radio. In 1936 he made his first stage appearance as a messenger in Maxwell at the Civic Theatre in Portland.

After years in repertory. Porter made his first screen ap-

porary of another right-back,

the legendary George Young of

Rangers, and Scottish captain. As

a teenager on the terraces at

Tynecastle in the late 1940s, my

first recollection of Parker is as

an acquisition from Partick This-

tle. He would be covered in mud

earlier in the game than anyone

else, partly because he was a for-

midable tackler, partly because he

was a terrific grafter and partly

because he was fearless. He was

also one of the most ferocious tak-

er of free-kicks from outside the

penalty box. The only man I have

ever seen hit a dead ball harder

was the Brazilian maestro

He never himself took part in

Roberto Rivelino.

Room (1939). After signing him for seven years. Universal Pictures proceeded to get their money's worth; in 1942 alone, their new contract artist appeared in Eagle Squadron, Top Sergeant, Madame Spy, Eyes of the Underworld, Night Monster, and as the killer in Appeared Who Costello's mystery spoof Who Done h?

The Dead End Kids vehicle Keep 'Em Slugging (1943) was the last Don Porter film for three years. His hobby was photography, which, coupled with his military training, served him in good stead as a combat photographer during the Sec-ond World War. When he was discharged, he returned to Universal to play a lawyer whose fiancée (June Lockhart) mistakenly believed she was a werewolf in She-Wolf of London (1946), a movie that was far funnier than Abbott and Costello's Buck Privates Come Home Universal contract. Becoming a

freelance, he went to Para-

Bobby Parker

tributed greatly to Hearts' Iri-

umph in the League Cup in

1954-55 and in the Champi-

onship in 1955-56. The present

Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

Eric Milligan, the most loyal of

Hearts fans, described Parker as

the living link between the suc-

cessful teams of the glory days

of Alf Conn. Willic Bauld, and

Jimmy Wardhaugh and the pre-

sent lively club, In particular,

Parker did much to further the

great career of the young right-

half in from of him, Dave

Mackay, later to be transferred

to Tottenham Hotspur and 10

of Ratho in West Lothian, out-

side Edinhurgh, and went to

Parker was born in the village

become the Scottish captain.

West (1950), to Columbia for 711 Ocean Drive (1950), to RKO for The Racket (1951), and to MGM for Because You're Mine (1952). His face soon became in-

ternationally recognised, thanks to the television shoom Private Secretary (1952-57). Ann Sothern starred as the super-efficient Susie MacNamara, whose life was dedicated to bringing order to her employer, the successful but disorganised talent agent, Peter Sands (Porter). The series finally ended after 104 episodes. hut its co-stars were soon teamed again in *The Ann Soth-*em Show (1958-61), which con-cerned Katy O'Connor, the super-efficient assistant manager of a New York hotel, and its disorganised manager, Mr Devery.

During the out-of-town tryouts of Muriel Resnick's play Any Wednesday (1964), Michael Rennie gave up the role of (1947), the last film of Porter's John Cleeves, an adulterous businessman, nakedly admining he was leaving because his fel-

school at Brochum Academy. In-

volved in junior football, he

was picked up by Bathgate Ju-

niors from where he went to

Firhill to play for Partick

Thistle. Returning to the east of

Scotland in 1947 be came to

Throughout the years, often

for little pay or none at all, he

devoted himself to any job that

had to be done in the club. He

was also a husinessman in the

Gorgie area of Edinburgh. In

the 1980s he took over the

news agency at the St Andrew's

Square bus station when hig

companies reckoned that the

price was 100 high. Both in the

news agency and in the travel

husiness his philosophy was to

Hearts.

low actor Gene Hackman was mount for My Friend Irma Goes "getting too many laughs". Porter had no such qualms; he accepted the role, and earned praise for his performance, playing Cleeves 982 times on Broadway. Taking over, from George C. Scott in Neil Simon's triptych of one-act comedies Plaza Suite (1969), he success-

fully played a harassed father,

a womanising film producer, and yet another adulterous

Porter interspersed stage appearances with such films as Mame (1974). Forty Carats (1973). Boh Hope's Bachelor in Paradise (1961) and Elvis Presley's Live a Little. Love a Little (1968), but in the 25 years since The Candidate he never again had a role as juicy as Senator Crocker Jarmon.

Donald Porter, actor: born Miami. Oklahoma 24 September 1912; married Peggy Converse (one son, one daughter); died Los Angeles 11 February 1997.

give good service to the public.

At a difficult time in 1975

sible the share reconstruction

which brought the energetic

Wallace Mercer and much

needed money to Tynecastle. He

remained welcome as ex-

chairman in the boardroom, and

Bobby Parker, footballer and

businessman: born Ratho, West

Lothian 16 February 1924; mar-

ned (one son, one daughter); died

Edinburgh I March 1997.

was a useful director.

Professor William Haas

William Haas was influential in promoting the fledgling science of linguistics - a relativelate arrival in British universities - in the years after the Second World War, and, as the first Mont Follick Professor, headed Manchester University's newly established Department of General Linguistics from 1963. His interest in the subject had been fired by lectures he had attended in Prague given by memhers of the Prague School of Linguistics.

Haas was a characteristic representative of a Central European tradition of scholar-ship; he had a wide culture, gritty individualism, and fierce



Haas: distrust of orthodoxies

Hearts turned to him to succeed Bill Lindsay as chairman. In intellectual integrity, all comhined with humour, personal 1980 when he resigned he made way for a company director, kindness and urbane charm. Archie Martin, and made pos-

He was born in 1912 in Ostrava, then part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, later part of the new state of Czechoslovakia. He studied Law and Philosophy in Prague, until the threat of Nazi persecution (his father was prominent in leftwing politics) forced him to escape to Britain via Poland in the spring of 1939.

Once in Britain, he enrolled at University College, Cardiff, to study Philosophy and German, later graduating with first to commit the incumbent of 1997.

class honours, despite his initial total lack of knowledge of English. (He used to say that he learnt English by the somewhat unusual method of writing philosophical essays, which were then meticuleusly cor-recled by his professor, J.W. Scott.) He was appointed Lecturer in German at Cardiff in

Although he had received no

formal training itt linguistics, he became ever more deeply involved in writing and research on linguistic topics, and in 1955 he was appointed to a Senior Lectureship in Linguistics at Manchester, one of the first nal members of the Board of Editors of the new Journal of

Linguistics. Haas made his own distinctive contributions to the subject. Among linguists he was probably best known for his theoretical work in mainstream areas, but perhaps more unusual was his pioneering work in the linguistic study of writing systems.

In 1963, he became the first holder of the Mont Follick Chair of Comparative Philology and General Linguistics. This chair was endowed by a former Labour MP for Loughborough who believed that the English spelling system was seriously defective because of a lack of consistency in the relationship between spelling and pronunciation (Shaw's tongue-in-cheek suggestion of "ghoti" as a possible spelling of "fish" – "gh" as in "laugh", "o" as in "women", and "ti" as "nation" - illustrates the in

Mont Follick at first hoped

the new chair to the pro-motion of spelling reform. However, this was judged by the senate at Manchester to be an improper restriction of academic freedom, and a compromise was eventually reached whereby the holder of the chair would undertake to devote at least part of his energies to the linguistic study of writing

من المناطقة على المناطقة على المناطقة ال

and the same

artime roots

([K backing

and the second second

3---

Service of the Service

And the second

The Day of the Control of the Contro

A contract of the contract of

September - herkerz Many Commencer of the second

Marina Land

Part of the second

The second second

Parameter States

Carrier Shows I am Street

Elephone to the sea

The state of the state of

The second of th

All Salar

B 200

300

One Strain

Carlotte St. Company

Burger to Tay to the fee

Control of the same

A Company of the Comp

The Branch of

Other British and Artificial

Control of the Contro

The state of the s A second second

The same of the sa

.

· Berisha

systems.

Haas accepted this challenge, and his work on the basic prirand his work on the basic priciples underlying different ways of writing down human speed was ground-breaking. He was always lukewarm towards spelling reform. He did not deny that the English spelling Manchester, one of the first academic posts in linguistics outside London. He was a founder inclinited of the Linguistics. Society of Great britain (still the subject of Great hand learned society in the country) and one of the original manhage of the post of the post of the country o of "cats" is spelled with an "s. and the plural of "dogs" with: "z", a closer sound-symbo match is achieved, but the im portant relationship between "s' and the meaning "plural" is

> The department Haas found ed, although much changed in many respects, still, in a curious way, carries traces of his intel lectual style, especially in its distrust of orthodoxies, and a deep respect for the often untidy, and theoretically recalcitrant facts about human language and language behaviour.

D. A. Cruse

William Haas, philologist; born Ostrava, Austro-Hungary 28 May 1912; Lecturer, German Department, University College, Cardiff 1945-55; Senior Lecturer in General Linguistics, Man-chester University 1955-63, Mon-Follick Professor of Comparative Philology and General Linguis-tics 1963-79 (Emeritus): twice married (one son, one daughter); died Manchester 4 February

fortune to be the exact contem- a cup-winning side, but he con-

DEATHS

DAWSON-SHEPHERD (JOHNS): NAWSON-SHEPHERD (10018S): Margaret Kathken on 28 February, Margaret K. Johns was the first female film producer in the UK. Widow of fan much-loved mother of Jennifer, Judith and Andruca, and stepmoth-er of Rosemary, Anne, Sarah and Dabsonk Emand across S. Wing Deborah, Funeral service St Wine fride Kew, 11.3/km. Thursday 13/3. Donatrons to Mother & Baby Clinic Project. The Little Foundation, 12 Park Crescent, London WIN 4EQ.

GOFF: Rosemary Anne, suddenly on Saturday I March 1997, Wife of the lare Bruce Goff MC, formerly Dyer, nee Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, beloved nee Wentworth-Filzwilliam, beloved mother of Michael, Annie and Bee-ca, adored grandmother and great-grandmother, treasured godmother and friend. Family funeral on Satur-day 8 March 1 Iam at St. Burth-olomew's, Egdean, near Fittleworth, West Susseas, followed by private cremation. A Service of Thanksokcremation. A Service of Thanksgiv-ing will be held on Wednesday 9 April 2pm at St Bartholomew's Egalean. No thourning. If desired, cut flowers

MACSWINEY: Major John Francis Sean (Royal Signals) (retired), sud-denty at home, on 1 March 1997, aged 81 years, Much missed by his children Gravan, Nunta and Fiona and his erandchildren. Funeral at Our Lady of the Rosary and Holy Rood, Botley, Oxford, at 2pm un Friday 7 March Requiescut in pace.

VEO MARSH: John Priscilla Ince Cur-tis Greent died peacefully at home on

ers, attends an English Symphony Or-chestra Concert, hosted by Severn Trent

pleat St Limes's Palace. Princess Alexandra, Patron. Home-Start, vers the

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Princess Royal Painton the Moredui Frondation, chairs the Retiral Lecture at Pentlands Science Park, Penicuik, Mid-Johnan; opens the new Edinburgh Health-care NHS Trusts Care of the Elderh Unit. Ferryfield House. Edinburgh: and as President, Princess Royal Trust for Car-

Births. Marriages & Deaths

1 March, Funeral at Waltham St Lawrence Parish Church at 2pm on Tuesday 11 March.

MEMORIAL SERVICES GOULD: Joe. A service to celebrate the life of Joe Gould will take place in

Eton College Chapel, on Friday 14 March, at 2 30pm.

Approuncements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries. In Memoriam should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square. Canary Wharf, Lon-don E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 20121 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette an-

uncements (nutices, lunction Forthcoming marriages, Marriages must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a tine, VAT extra. Please include a daytime

> ingston Scheme, New Malden, Surrey The Duke of Kent, President, attends Committee Meeting of the Antomobile Association, Busingso dec. Hampshire: visite Flag Officer Sea Training HMS Drake, Plymouth; and visits HMS Coverny, at sea on operational traming.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at

Birthdays

Lady Elizabeth Basset, Extra Woman of the Bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, 89; The Right Rev Thomas Butler, Bishop of Leicester, 57; Admiral Sir Siroon Cassels, 69; The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, premier Earl of Scotland, 70: Mr Jim Dowd MP, 46; Miss Samantha Eggar, film actress, 58: Mr Anthony Hedges, composer, 60: The Most Rev Bruno Heim, former Apostolie Pro-Nuncio, 80: Mr Robin Herben, chairman, Leopold Joseph Holdings, 63; Mr Richard Hickox, conductor, 49; Mrs Ann Longley, Head Mistress, Roedcan, 55; Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, chairman, Macfarlane Group. 71; Miss Elspeth March. actress. 86; Sir Derek Milebell, former senior civil servant. 75: Miss Elaine Paige, actress and singer, 45; Sir Jack Rumbold, former president, Industrial Tribunals, 77; Mr Dean Stockwell, film actor. 61: Air Marshal Sir Thomas Stonor. defence consultant, 61; Mr Barry Tuckwell, conductor and horn player, on Mr Des Wilson, Director of Corporate and Public Affairs, BAA

Anniversaries

Births: Gerbardus Mercator (Gerhard Kremer), cartographer, 15(2; William Oughtred, mathematician and inventor, 1575; Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, painter, 1696; Sir Rex Carey Harrison, actor, 1918. Deaths: Anonio Allegri da Correggio, painter. 1534: Thomas Augustine Arne, com-poser ("Rule, Britannia") 1778; Floa Maedonald, Jacobite heroine, 1790; Franz Anton Mesmer, physician and founder of "animal magnetism". 1815: Sergei Sergeyevich Prokofiev, composer, 1953; Joseph Stalin (Iosif Vissarionovich Dzhug-

ashvili), Russian teader, 1953; Anna Akhmatova [Anna Andrevevna Gorenko), poet. 1966; Mohammac Mosaddeq, Iranian politician, 1967; Tito Gobbi, baritone, 1984; William Powell actor. 1984. On this day: the foundation stone of New College, Oxford, was laid, 1397; Lee De Fores demonstrated an experimental radio brandcast from New York, 1907; the Spanish steamer Principe de Asmrias struck a rock and sank off Brazil, with the loss of over 400 lives. 1916; civil disobedience in India ended, 1931; the Nazis made large gains in the German general election. 1933: the Battle of the Bismarck Sea ended, 1943; Winston Churchill made a speech at Fulton, Missouri, referring to an "Iron Curtain" across Europe, 1946: Dr Gustav Heinemann became president of West Germans in succession to Dr Heinrich Lubke. 1949. Today is the Feast Day of Saints Adrian and Eubulus, St Eusebius of Cremona, St Gerasimus, St John Joseph of the Cross, St Kieran of Saighir, St Phucas of Antioch, St Pi-

Lectures

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins and Lizzie Barker, "The Italian Baroque (i): 'a feeble and fallen school', for and against the Baroque". lpm: Richard Wollheim. The Meizphories of Painting", 6.30pm. Victoria and Albert Musenm: Richard Dunn. "Astrological Imagery in Western Art", 2,30pm.

ran and St Virgil of Arles.

Loughborough University: Professor Roy Faulkner. "Alom Management", 4.30pm

Higgins, "Into the Next Millennium:

the International Court of Instice in

Leicester University: Judge Rosalyn

Direction sufficient to deal with jury bias Gregory v United Kingdom

European Court of Ruman Rights; 25 February 1997

The decision of a judge, faced with an allegation of racial bias in a jury trying a black defendant, to give the jury a forceful redirection instructing them to put all thoughts of prejudice out of their minds and to consider the case no the evidence alone, was sufficient to ensure the jury's impartiality and to dispel any doubts as to the fairness of the defendant's trial

The European Court of Human Rights ruled by a majority of eight to one that there had been no infringement of the right to *a fair . . . hearing . . . by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law under article 6.1 of the European Convention on Human Rights in the case of David Gregory.

The applicant, who was black, was tried for robbery before a jury at Manchester Crown Court in November 1991. The jury relired at 10.46am on 28 November to consider their verdict but returned at 12.28 and handed to the trial judge a note stating: "Jury showing racial overtones. One member to LAW REPORT

5 March 1997.

In the jury's absence, the judge consulted counsel for the prosecution and defence about a suitable response to the note. Defence counsel recollected asking the judge to discharge the jury, but in the judge's recollection both counsel agreed to his proposal to issue a redirection. The jury were recalled and the judge in-structed them to put out of their minds any thoughts of prejudice and to consider the case on the

evidence alone. After a further direction in which the judge told the jury that he could accept a majority verdict, the defendant was found guilty by a 10-2 majority. The applicant was sentenced to six years' imprisonment. His applications for leave to appeal against conviction were refused.

The European Court of Human Rights stressed that the impartiality of a tribunal including a jury had to be determined on the basis of both a subjective and an objective

Since there was no proof of actual or subjective hias on the part of one or more jurors, and

evidence of such could not be adduced by questioning them about the allegations in the note because of the rule in English law governing the secrecy of jury deliberations, the appropriate starting point was to examine whether the trial judge had done all that could be required of him under article 6.1 to dispel any objectively justified doubts about the jury's

impartiality. The court had particular regard to the steps taken by the judge on receipt of the jury's note. He had not dismissed the allegation outright but had sought the views of prosecution and defence counsel on a suitable reaction to it. He had concluded that, of the options available to him at that stage of the trial, the matter could best be dealt with by reconvening the jury and issuing a

firm redirection in open court. As an experienced judge, having observed the jury throughout the trial, he had no doubt been aware of the possibility of discharging them or asking them in open court whether they were capable of continuing and returning a verdict on the evidence alone.

Defence counsel had not in fact pressed for either of these courses, and it could thus he reasonably inferred that he had not considered that either had been warranted in the

circumstances.
At most, defence counsel would appear to have asked the judge to investigate the circumstances which had motivated the writing of the note. However, any such investigation would have been impossihle because of the rule on

secrecy of jury deliberations.
The redirection itself had been forceful, detailed and carefully worded, with particular emphasis on the jury members' sworn duty to try the case on the evidence alone, to the exclusion of any thoughts of prejudice of any kind. The tenor of the redirection, coupled with the fact that no further allegations of racial hias were made, led the court to conclude that the trial judge had taken sufficient steps to any objective doubts about the

jury's impartiality. While the guarantee of a fair trial might in certain circumstances require a judge to discharge a jury, in the present case a carefully worded redirection was sufficient.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

المكذا من الأصل

Unlocking the iron cage of Albania

waste of time. If even the Stalinist regime of Enver Hoxha could not keep out westera popular music – Italy is too close – Tirana's current rulers are unlikely to have any more success with the BBC

But this decision is significant. Any regime that switches off the Voice of America relay, expels foreign journalists and fire-bomhs its own papers is doomed. Of course it can keep going for a while. Protesters can be machine-gunned, tanks can seal the borders, the secret police restored to the rank and privilege they enjoyed until 1991. All that can happen; and yet the regime's survival has now become a short-run thing.

That prediction does not have to do with the virtues of news journalists though the penny-pinching British government might note the critical role played by the World Service at moments like these. It is to make the simple observation that there is no economic progress, hased on trade and markets, without the full flow of information, with official encouragement, inside and outside the country. Efforts are being made by the Chinese government to prevent unhiased news reaching the country's interior; the Iranians want to censor the Internet. Yet not only does technology make such illiheralism more and more

difficult to sustain but information he Albanian regime led by President
Sali Berisha is trying to silence foreign news broadcasts. It is a market participation. Without knowledge - of events, trends, demands trade is bound to suffer.

So the Berisha regime is voting against markets, against trade, against Albania's only conceivable future. The past is state socialism. Its debris lies all around that benighted country, from the rash of concrete pill boxes, erected on the orders of Enver Hoxha against the non-existent threat of invasion, to the eroded slopes denuded of tree cover by a collectivised peasantry lacking fuel. There is no way back into economic isolation; too many Albanians have tasted the fruits of freedom to let it go far.

But freedom alone guarantees nothing Albanian liberty began promisingly. President Berisha inaugurated market reforms; the lek was stabilised. But during the past two years freedom has been exploited by gangsters and getrich-quick merchants with - the conclusion is inescapable – the connivance of high officials. We should not make too much of the nativese of the Albanian people taken in by pyramid schemes: such schemes and their cousins flourished in Depression America. The something for-nothing mentality is visible here in Britain, too. But the Albanians were conned in a remarkably comprehensive and wholesale fashion; and one of the country's short-run problems is how to re-establish trusting



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

a situation where, willy-nilly, many people will end up losers.

First, of course, there must a return to order. Calm in the streets of Vlora, Gjirokaster and Sarander is a precondition of progress. But if the country can be cooled down, what conjunction of foreign government intervention and action by the Tirana authorities is most likely to secure, say, a restoration of the status quo ante 1994?

No one needs to pretend Albania is a strategic pawn or even a potential contributor to regional instability. Hoxha's only allies were the North

economic and political relationships in Koreans; Moscow's only interest is indirect, routed through Belgrade. There is an oppressed Albanian majority in Serb-ruled Kosovo, but so far Tirana has shown no inclination to stir up that small and dangerous hornets' nest. An efflux of people from Albania could be a nuisance to Greece and Italy, members both the European Union and Nato. But our interest rests on more than the obligations of alliance. It goes wider than humanitarian concern or even the prospect of new Adriatic beaches which one day ought to bring that country muchneeded tourist revenues. It is our stake

the iron cage of unfreedom.

The Greeks and Italians want the Dutch, current presidents of the EU, to convene crisis meetings, and so they should. A comparatively tiny amount of money, made available perhaps as a soft loan, could tide the Albanian government over the effects of the pyramid-selling scandal. But the usefulness of a bail-out depends on the capacity of the Tirana government, first, to regain some minimal degree of public confidence, and, second, to establish conditions in which scams and schemes may go on (no one is ever going to extirpate get-rich-quick aspiration) hut are kept local and manageable. Is President Sali Berisha capable of

such transformation? It might mean his undoing the results of that corrupted election of last May which saw his Democratic Party into power. There is no point ignoring the fact that among the opposition's democrats and liberals are hardline Communists; yet it is hard to see how the institutions of freedom, economic or political, can be reformed without cross-party co-operation.

There is a further condition to be met hefore any offer of financial or other assistance is given by the EU, the World Bank, the United States or any other international actor. It is official freedom of the air. President Berisha's attempt to muzzle the press is more than an effort to stop news circulating

in seeing a small country emerge from in Albania. It is the act of a regime foreign audience to deprived of evidence of Albania's primitive condition and its own people to be left in the dark. President Berisha needs to see how damaging and self-defeating such action is. Albania has barely started out on the rocky road towards capitalist democracy. Getting back to the starting point requires even this small Balkan state to learn liberalism. And it starts today with freedom of information.

Love blossoms with the daffodils

It reads like a fairy-story. A Tory politi-to rule over the Principality of Wates decides to avoid the embarrassment of his predecessor: on public occasions he must show he knows enough Welsh to sing their national anthem. So the civil servant daughter of a former director of the National Eisteddfod is detailed as his tutor. Naturally enough she is called ...
Jenkins. Affection blossoms as they struggle with those clustered emisonants and subtle vowels - and soon her ministerial master is to become her husband. Gond luck to them. If Tory Welsh Secretaries can't actually be Welsh, or have houses looking out on the Welsh hills, then at least they are look forward to they can look forward to increasing the Anglo-Welsh population.

Wartime roots of UK backing for Berisha

Sir: There is a wider and deeper background to the British Conservative connection with Albania (reports, 14, 15, 24 February). It goes hack to the Special Operations Executive's operations in Albania in the Second World War.

In 1944 the late Lord Amery, then a young captain, acted as a sort of political commissar with the Billy McLean/David Smiley mission, which tried to conjure resistance to the Germans from the Zogist movement in north Albania. For various reasons they failed.
After the war they explained their failure by alleging that Albania had been betrayed and given over to Enver Hoxha and Communism by the following and in some cases the treachery of fellow officers in SOE who had channelled support to the

This became the generally accepted version of events because Julian Amery and his associates were for several decades the only members of the SOE teams from Albania who went into print. They contributed to the ill-starred effort to destabilise Enver Hoxha's Albania at the turn of the Forties and Fifties. The failure of that project has been blamed on Philby's treachery, although there are very good reasons for thinking that it would have failed without Philby's intervention. It was an early piece of ill-judged and

الكياب

excessive anti-Communism. When the Communist regime began to collapse in 1991, Amery and Smiley visited Albania and became active supporters and encouragers of Sali Berisha and his Democratic Party. With the help of Lord Amery's prestigious position in British politics it was possible to mobilise some practical help for them from Conservative and eventually also from government sources. Berisha won the 1992 election and became President; and first William Bennett and later Guy Roberts were taken into his office as special advisers. The UK had no diplomatic ties with Albania until later in 1992, but President Berisha was already assured in this unofficial way of a close British connection. In so far as Sir Geoffrey Patrie has nourished that connection in the mid-Nineties, he has inherited the late Lord Amery's mantle.

The 1944 outcome was reversed in 1992. It would have been best for Albania if hard, revanchist anti-Communism had been softened from then onwards. Unfortunately it has continued to have an important place in the political ideology of President Berisha's government, and this has undoubtedly been encouraged by right-wing advice from abroad, not only advice from foreign friends but also advice from Albanian emigré communities in western communes. The main opposition party, the Socialists, have been slow in distancing themselves from their Hoxha ist past, and this has made it easier for anti-Communism to appear still to be relevant, although it ceased to be an adequate or even a valid ideology once the

Communist system had fallen apart. Theresult is that Albania today is a deeply divided country, on the way to becoming once again a single-party state, without a new post-Communist constitution or an

independent judiciary. In its rush to the free market Albania has picked up some of capitalism's worst habits. The collapse of the pyramid investment



schemes has precipitated a grave crisis. But even graver is the fact that, for lack of properly functioning democratic institutions, the issue is being fought out in street demonstrations and police repression. Such are the fruits of excessive Communism and excessive anti-Communism. Albania is still in the shadow of the bitter events of 1944, and influences from the UK have helped to keep it there. Sir REGINALD HIBBERT Pennal, Gwynneth The writer, a former British Ambassador to France, served with the SOE in Albania in the Second

Let students see ancient records

World War

Sir. The letter from the Duke of Norfolk and others (3 March) raises issues which extend beyond the Victoria County Histories though completing that series (and making the data they contain available on CD-Roms affordable by students) would indeed be a worthwhile use of government or lottery money.

There are also many national historical records worthy of production in a form which would make them practically accessible to students. Some, such as Domesday Book, are already available in modern editions which could be reproduced. Many others - such as the "Rolls" series of medieval chronicles, the Complete Peerage, the Rolls of Parliament, or the full text of the Statutes of the Realm ideally need re-editing, but failing to make the existing versions readily available in machine-

readable form now simply because they are imperfect would be to allow the best to become the enemy of the good. ERIC THOMPSON London, NW2

Plutonium plant spells more waste

Sir: The Environment Agency has invited public comment on the proposal by British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) to commission and operate the Sellafield MOX Plant (SMP) with submissions to be received at their Lancaster office

The £300m facility for fabricating by 7 Aptil. mixed-oxide (uranium and plutonium) assemblies should not have been built in the first place. The concept has never been properly debated in a public forum, nor have local authorities been consulted about the safety implications.

The nuclear industry has been vigorously promoting the burning of plutonium in conventional reactors as a means of dealing with the increasing stockpiles of civil plutonium and excess military plutonium from the United States and Russia. BNFL, in particular, has attempted to steal the nuclear disarmers' clothes with its "swords into ploughshares" claims in an attempt to gain public support for

MOX. However, only 5 per cent, or less, of the MOX fabrication will be plutonium, with fresh, not recycled, uranium accounting for at least 95 Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).

per cent of the fuel. It also appears that two-thirds of the assemblies in a reactor will contain no plutonium at all. It is likely, therefore, that more plutonium will be created

than burnt up. No waste management strategy has been identified for the spent MOX fuel and we have been informed that it could not be dealt with in THORP without major modifications; will yet another reprocessing plant be built at Sellafield and yet more plutonium

separated? BNFL should never have been permitted to add to the plutonium stockpile by starting reprocessing in THORP. Plutonium is a dangerous liability, not an energy asset, and all reprocessing, civil as well as military, should be halted.

MOX is little more than the next

technical fix for an ailing nuclear industry which is intended to rie more countries into the next stage of the "plutonium economy". It will increase concerns about nuclear accidents and weapons proliferation. Ultimately, it can only add to the growing legacy of nuclear detritus awaiting a longterm plan for its management. Dr FRANK BARNABY SHAUN BURNTE (Greenpeace International) MARTIN FORWOOD (Cumbrians Opposed to a Radioactive Environment) DI MARTIN HEMINGWAY

(Chair Nuclear Free Local Authorities) DAVE KNIGHT (Chair, CND) Pennih, Cumbria

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Men who know they are women

Sir: Jojo Moyes ("When a man loves being a woman", 22 February) displays a depressing lack of imagination. Can she not try to grasp what it might he like to have a body which is at odds with one's identity? Given all the pain involved for loved ones and themselves, besides any subsequent inconvenience, why indeed would nen want to be women - unless they were convinced they were women?

And through some may be tragically mistaken and slip through the medical checks designed to catch them, even on Ms Moyes's figures 95 per cent will not have a change of mind postoperatively, and 90 per cent will adjust - rather good statistics as medical procedures go. SUSAN MARSHALL

Save BT museum Sir: The announcement by BT that

it is to close its telecommunications museum (report, 1 March) is a further sign of the social irresponsibility of the privatised utilities.

City of London, was opened in 1982 and houses Britain's telecommunications heritage, spanning some 200 years. The

Sir: With regard to your report "Rail firm fined for crowded trains" (3 March), I should like to point out that during the period of temporary rolling-stock shurtages

The museum, in the heart of the decision is based primarily on cost

caused by severe weather in January, Connex South Eastern managed to maintain train services on all routes during the worst winter in Kent for many years. In this period, which saw many major roads closed and ferry sailings halted, our punctuality and

and its "poor" site location - but

the museum has suffered from a

Currently the BT Museum

ages can trace the progress in

days of telegraphy to the latest satellite and optical fibre technologies, learning about pioncers such as Bell. Morse,

Edison and Marconi.

centre.

receives thousands of school-age

children each year. Visitors of all

communications, from the earliest

The museum receives thousands

Why can the company nut leave

the existing museum upon while

perhaps close to the BT Tower and

Trains in winter

reliability were significantly better

of requests for information from

the general public each year. It

boasts a well-stocked resource

seeking an alternative site -

London's West End?

DALABASTER

Billericay, Essex

publicity and development funding for some time.

lack of company direction,

ARFEARN Managing Director. Connex South Eastern London SE1

than in previous winters.

Shaved horns no help to cowards

Sir. Ernest Hemingway, would have agreed with Liz Nash ("The (shaved) horns of a dilemma". 3 (snaved) norms of a diffirmation. March) that the machisms of many though not all) bullfighters conceals a "quivering child who is frightened to die".

I suspect, though, that he would not have supported the premise of her argument that a bull disorientated by horn-shaving, and therefore more likely to miss would be the preferred animal of the cowardly matador.

Hemingway, who perhaps got as close as any foreigner can to the heart of this mysterious Spanish practice, was clear that among bullfighters the unpredictable bull. who will not charge straight and true, is the most feared animal. If the bull aims directly for the cape. as he should if he retains his alertness and balance, the matador's strict training will allow him to achieve a kill without great

personal risk. If this is so, the only advantage of orn-shaving is that should the matador receive a goring, the prospect of death or serious wounding for the man is greatly

reduced. Liz Nash's description of the fiesta glorified by Hemingway" is a rather wayward stab at his real views. In Death in the Afternoon he mounts a sustained attack on the cowardly matador, protected even in the Twenties and Thirties by a corrupt system which her report shows has changed little.

His case was that only occasionally does the corrida rise above such failings to provide a true contest and an eccentric but stark view of the human condition. Whether it is a necessary or a moral view is perhaps a problem with which, notwithstanding EU integration, northern Europeans are unable truly to grapple. TRISTRAM HODGKINSON London SW4

Political nous of a spellchecker

Sir: My PC's nutdated spellchecker (it fails to recognise "consultancy" or "privatise", so it is obviously pre-Eighties) also plays tricks with people's names. It will of course gnore names that exist as normal vords, but shows remarkable insight when it gets to puliticians'

true identity.
With the latest Cabinet split I discovered that John Major was changed to a grey and feeble "Join Major". However, Stephen Dorrell turns into a double Eurusceptic rallying call: "Stiffen. Derail!" I could not possibly cumment on other cabinet members such as "Mutual Coward", but I have no doubt that the party chairman would prefer "Brawn Moncy" to

"Brown Moony".
As for the leaders of the Opposition, it merely confirms what we knew all along: Tony Blair becomes "Tons Bluer" and Paudy Ashdown "Badly Outdone". BADLY PUNY (PADDY PAYNE) London SW4

Major question

Sir. I cannot understand John Major's accusation that no member of the Opposition front bench has experience of high government office. ft seems that he is either calling for a Labour victory in the name of democracy, or arguing the virtues of a one-party state. CLIVE BRAMLEY London SE3

The v
spend
for a r

SERVED TO THE SERVED THE THE SERVED THE SERV

And William or medicinely and

The first of the second

The state of the party

The figure is a second of the second of the

The same of the sa

Tentile of the tentile

The real of the second second

WELL TO THE STATE OF THE SERVE ME

The state of the s

Talah, ar terretak salah salah

Aleka to the state of the state

the amount of the second

The day of the state of the sta

And the service of th

La Language Control of the Control o

Maria Company

Sales and Arrange and Arrange

A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR

West way

the state of the s

Section of the section of the

district the second of the second Bert British State

And The State of the State of

The land the man

the strate of

ा क्या दिखा ।

And the state of t

A STATE OF THE STA

Marie Control of the Control of the

Addition to Property and the second

የተለለ እ. . . .

FER WAY

15 75 5

acine's story begins in 1994, Iwo years after the outbreak of civil war in Alge-ria. Beside him sits Mohammed Sekkoum, chairman of the Algerian Refugee Council, based in the northern. untrendy, end of the London Borough of Islington. We have met in a café, drinking capuccinos and lea out of glasses. It's a meeting place for Algerians who have chosen the uphill struggle for refugee status in Britain instead of the horror and fear of their own country. where an estimated 100,000 people have met their deaths in the last five years.

I have no way of checking Yacine's story. Yacine is the name he has picked to hide his identity – few Algerians are confident enough to talk at all. let alone under their own names. But during a lengthy conversation no alarm bells ring, no grounds for doubting the story suggest themselves. With the help of Mohammed. the story is fold in a mixture of Algerian Arabic, French and

Mohammed has the face of the 29-year-old he is, but the black curly hair framing his pale olive skin is going grey. He had been combining his occupation as an accountant with membership of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). the movement poised to win the 1992 parliamentary elec-tions had the contest not been cancelled by a government dominated - as it has been since independence in 1962 -

Yacine was involved in what he calls the FIS "social" department - collecting money, delivering leaflets, preparing meetings and demonstrations "to help poor people". The FIS has an armed wing, the Islamic Sal-vation Army (AIS), but this is the less hard-line of the armed opposition groups. The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), itself split into factions, has pro-claimed that they will kill all

The complex web of increasingly extreme tendencies has fed to the targeting of journalists, intellectuals, trades unionists, lawyers and independence war veterans as well as political leaders and members of the police and security forces and their families. The government has become increasingly hardline too, banning protests, shutting down newspapers and torturing and killing opponents.

Growing numbers of innocent a French passport, he says.



In 1990 there were just 25 applications from Algerians for political asylum in the UK. From the beginning of a barbaric civil war in 1992, the total has soared to more than 4,000

Patricia Wynn Davies looks at the reasons - and having their throats cut, by armed opposition groups or security forces - often no one why almost all of them are being sent back

Yacine and his friends operated from the district of Bab-el-Oued, an FIS stronghold in the centre of Algiers. When a warning came that the security forces were looking for Yacine. some of the group had already been arrested. Everyone had heard about what had become the routine and unflinching barbarism in Algerian jails. "I went over the Moroccan borcivilians are being murdered. From Dar-el-Beida he flew to sometimes by beheading or Spain and then to Britain. And

LIMITED OFFER!

5.49% (5.6%APR)

MORTGAGE RATE FROZEN

jail first, after notching up the first black mark with the immigration service by not claiming asylum on arrival. He had sent back the false French passport so it could be used again. "I was waiting for some papers." he says. "I wanted some evidence before I claimed asylum. At that time I could not prove even that I was Algerian." He was picked up three weeks later, by

it was here he was to experience chance, when an Algerian floor or shake your head. You friend he was staying with was arrested. After going on hunger strike in a detention centre be was sent to prison. He stayed in jail for five months while his application was processed and refused. I am not a criminal. I have claimed asylum." he would tell jail staff. But he says the immigration authorities were unimpressed. As depor-tation loomed he went on hunger strike again after being moved to a different jail. "I was

64 days without food, just water and sugar. I lost 20 kilograms." Algerian policemen were waiting for him on his arrival in Algiers in January 1995. "They had a blue paper with my photo on it." he says. The torture began at the Algiers police

headquarters. "I was stripped. They started beating with sticks and iron sticks. They poured water from a jug - about five litres, -into my mouth when I was lying down. They said when you want to say something, knock on the

memorise it, or have it

tattooed on your wrist, or

to be of wonderful help to

"Under democracy, one

energies to trying to prove

otherwise made easily

the next election.

feel you are going to die. Then they took me to the toilet."

It is getting more compli-cated to explain. Mohammed suggests he draws a diagram in my notebook. He draws a body on a plank of wood tilted down towards a toilet in the floor. Lying face up on the plank with his face nearest the bowl, his tormentors repeatedly doused his face with urine and faeces. Someone else beat the soles of his feet. The window was open, letting in cold air. In between dousing him with the contents of the toilet, they doused him with cold water. "You'll get rheumatism', they said."

ohammed was blind-folded and taken else-where. "The torture was different there. They gave shocks in my ears and on my lips and beart. The cell was dark but I could see light when I was having the sbocks." He was there for 15 days before being taken to the notorious Serkadji

orison, where security forces killed more than 100 prisooers, many political detainees, in February 1995. Yacine was so ill that he was immediately removed to the psychiatric wing

of Ain-Nadja military hospital. The FIS organised an escape to Spain by ship. He took another ship to Plymouth, entering Britain with false Italian papers 10 days ago. Despite all that weot before, he believes he can convince the UK authorities that they made a mistake

Another 29-year-old, who uses the name Beca, has been waiting to talk and makes to leave. Mohammed, who was a vet in Algeria until he fell foul of the authorities 10 years ago, persuades him to stay. "They must tell their story," he says. Mohammed points to others in the room, a man whose brother recently died in Algeria,

another who is a journalist. After the GIA issued a statement that "those who live by the pen shall die by the sword",

gerous place in the world to be

Beca comes as a surprise. He cannot sit at the same table as Yacine - because Beca was a policeman in Algeria, though he doesn't look it now. He has grown his hair. He has been in the UK for two years and is awaiting the outcome of an appeal against a refusal to remain. He says he would be arrested as a deserter if he was returned to Algeria.

Beca had been a traffic

policeman until he was trained as a detective. "We had to learn how to hit targets, how to torture people. We were taught to tie people to chairs, like hairdressers' chairs, and immobilise the head. There would be a drip, drip, drip of water on the head, for five or six hours."

The anti-terrorist groups would fix people to ladders by their arms and then push them over when they were unable to .save themselves. They would get a spooge soaked in dirty water and put it in a person's mouth. They would make a man put his genitals by an open drawer, then close it...

"I was involved one day, in the Casbar area. They knew

house and took him to the local police station. The anti-terrorist brigade joined us. They kept his hands on the table and nailed a piece of wood on them. Nobody can do that job."

celled to do the job forced him, along with many other policemen, to flee. But he has never seen a policeman accepted for asylum in the UK. Mohammed knows of one, though plenty more apply Algerians accepted as refugees within the terms of the 1951 UN Convention or given exceptional leave to remain, everyone looks incredulous when I ask, for the record, if they had ever considered France; Algeria's former colonial master. Suspicious of racism and the links to the Algerian regime, feel secure applying to France, I am told. Most applicants. lowever, will not be permitted to stay in Britain.

n 1995, 1,865 asylum applications came from Algerians. Of the cases concluded, 15 were judged to have a well founded fear of persecution and accepted as refugees under the 1951 convention. Ten others were given exceptional leave to remain on humanitarian grounds because their individual circumstances meant it might not be safe to return that year's applicants have so far totalled 720: 540 have been refused both asylum and exceptional leave to remain; 120 were sent back to the "third countries" which were their first port of call and 65 were refused for failing to comply with requirements, including being interviewed.

For many, it will have been the familiar, depressing story: lack of evidence to surmount a burden of proof stacked against an applicant; lack of back-up and support; saying or doing the wrong thing at the wrong time; misunderstandings about the way things are done in other continents; suspicion; bad lawyers and bad luck.

Nick Hardwick, chief executive of the British Refngee Council, says: "I have met Algerians who have had asylum claims rejected, not because they don't face danger in Algeria but because the Home Office says they will be protected by the Algerian government." Over at the Foreign Office, a Category One warning to potential visitors from Britain is in place, advising against any visits by Britons. including those wanting to conduct essential business.

Listening to these stories of how people have been thrown out of this country and tortured in their own, I was reminded of what Baroness Blatch, the Home Office minister of state, said during the House of Lords Second Reading of the 1996 Asylum and Immigration Act. "We are determined to hon-

our this country's well known tradition of harbouring those who flee here in genuine fear of persecution."

The opposite of wrong is just not right

It's going to be an uncertain couple of years for mortgage rates; but it needn't be for you.

TO APRIL 1999.

With Woolwich Direct's new Fixed Rate Mortgage you can be sure of exactly what you're paying until April 1999, if you are an existing customer on the move, or a new mortgage customer.

Take the first step to getting your rate fixed by calling Woolwich Oirect, at local rate. Monday to Friday 8.30am -9.00pm, Saturday 9.00am - 3.00pm or Sunday 10.00am -2.00pm on 0645 75 75 75 quoting ref. IX53.

Get much more with

WOOLWICH DIRECT

0645 75 75 75

aPR is notice and typical and quiculated on the obscumption that the mortgage rate applicable during this lated table period teach will not flow mortgage are respect of the mortgage; and topy for the full term of the least. However, from 1.4.99, the Soperty's prevailing standard synchly mortgage rate of an fact apply. Fince terms apply mortgage can of an fact apply. Fince terms apply on the standard and a standard or or after 19.2.97 and the mortgage computed by 35.6.97. Toward nearly because the property is suited or or after 19.2.97 and the mortgage computed by 35.6.97. Toward nearly because the property is suited by an experience of \$5.000 years to the original polymers of \$2.50.000 years to the control of the advance in 11% of the Sonoth's solution of the property is suited by moving of \$2.50.50 years interest of \$2.50.50 years to the control of \$2.50.50 years to the control

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT MEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OF OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. FADS

following quotation, or available, because it is going you in the days leading up to party always devotes its chief that the other party is unfit to rule - and both commonly succeed, and are right." (HL

Mencken1 There is a great truth contained in this gloomy reflection, and the neatest way I can think of expressing it is as follows: "Just because you are wrong, it does not mean that I am right."

A moment's thought will show that this is true. The fact that Tottenham Hotspur have lost five matches in a row does not make Arseoal a good team. The collapse of Soviet Communism does not make capitalism admirable. The foolishness of joining a single currency does not prove the wisdom of staying nut. Oh, how much nicer life would be if the apposite of bad was good, but experience tells us that it is not.

example looming through the fog, the general election will be presented to us as an either/or situation. If you don't want the Tories to govern us, you must want New Labour to do so. If you don't like the sound of New Labour, you must support the Tories. In fact, all political debate is presented like this already. When Labour condemns the Government for its policy, it assumes that the Opposition policy is the right one. If one is wrong, the

other must be right. But another moment's thought will show that this is rubbish. Just because the Government has got it wrong does not mean that the Opposition will get it right. It is much more probable that both will get it wrong. It is even possible that both will get it right. Sometimes one party holds up ideas which the other party recognises as being the same as theirs. Do they celebrate? Do they hasten to clap the other side on the back? Not a bit. They jeer at them for stealing their ideas. They mock them for

not being able to think up

anything better.



Miles Kington

The whole Tory v Labour contest is presented to us by TV. by radio, by the papers, by Mrs Betty Boothroyd, by the Today programme and by pub conversation, as if it were democracy in action. But it isn't. Choosing between our two main political parties is like choosing between two men in masks in an identity parade. It is simply a cup competition in which both sides have progressed to the final without beating anyone. It is a self-appointed league containing only two teams. It is a beauty contest in which ugly of two ugly sisters. It is a game in which the other side is presented as more of a threat to Britain than pollution, China or global

warming ... We have only ourselves to

blame, of course. If we end up with a system in which we are reduced to choosing between Blair and Major, then plainly the system reflects on us and our society. If our political system produces nobody worth voting for, it cannot be a great political system, and it is probably not a great society. Indeed, if a great party leader did emerge, he might well be too good for the job. It would he rather embarrassing to have a world-class leader at the helm of a non-world-class

That's it! I have suddenly seen the truth! Both parties are unfit to rule this country. and we deserve both of them! Well, I have done a

dramatic U-turn since beginning this piece, and still have some space left, so I want to ask three questions which have been preying on my mind recently. 1. Why do we assume that

when someone in an English

therefore innocent? All that has happened, surely, is that the case has not been proved He may be guilty. He may be innocent. But the evidence

was not felt to be adequate: 2. Why was it felt that Diane Blood's husband should have given written permission for his babies to be born? Does anyone ever give permission for it to happen? I never gave written. or verbal permission for my children to be conceived. There are many fathers who do not know they have had children, and there are other fathers who did not want the children to be born, and would have stopped it if they could. So why was it felt that Diane Blood's husband should have given written

permission for his babies to be born? 3. If the European Court of Justice has ruled against the legality of sado-masochism. saying that people should not have the freedom willingly to inflict and receive pain, how can it possibly be legal to play

If anyone knows the answers, please do not let me

المكذا من الأصل

The windfall – spend it or save it for a rainy day?

ecling richer today? One million people this week learned that they will get payouts of £1;400 apiece – the members of the Northern Rock building society. This year some 16 million Britons - one third of the adult population - will receive a total of more than £20bn from the floats of building societies on the stock market. The biggest, the Hali-fax/Leeds will affect 8.5 million people: the Alliance and Leicester and the Woolwich, another 5 million.

These are hig numbers - the largest transfer of cash that has ever taken place in this country, far larger than any "give-away" budgets. What we do with the money - in particular whether we spend it or save it - will obviously have a profound impact on the economy. But even more important, it will tell us something about social behaviour, and about a potentially devastating new fis-

sure in our society. The working assumption of most economists is that the bulk of the windfall will be saved in the first year; the Bank of England reckons only 5-10 per cent will he spent. This sounds a bit optimistic (or pes-simistic depending on your point of view), for the results of a Mori survey suggest that peo-ple will spend 10-25 per cent of the windfall, mainly on holidays. Were the spending at the top end of the range it would add I per cent to consumer spending, big enough to feel. But we really will not know what people will do with their money until they have it in their bank accounts, and then not for

a few years. Maybe people won't spend it in year one, but then the car needs a new clutch: very elderly, the over-80s, who are increasing

The only comparable UK experience was in the late 1980s, when house prices boomed and the new expression "equity take out" entered the language. People cashed in part of the additional value of their home by increasing their mortgage and then spending the difference.
But that other, and less agreeable, expression "negative equity" entered the language shortly afterwards. Maybe that experience will change. behaviour. Will the new insecurity encourage,

US experience is interesting. Americans ful young professionals can run a smaller car have become much richer in the past three or forego the third holiday. People in less well years, not from windfall gains from building paid jobs can't save so much. People not in jobs society conversions, but from the general rise can't save at all. society conversions, but from the general rise in the stock market. This wealth is spread quite a-way down the income scale; thanks to the practice in the US of using accounts with mutual funds - unit trusts - for regular saving, rather in the way we use bank or building soci-

It seems that, far from spending their Wall Street bunce, US citizens are saving it. Back in the middle 1980s, the annual rise in US consumption hit 6 per cent. Through the middle 1990s, it has been a little over 2 per cent and it does not seem to have risen at all with the. boom of the last three years. Maybe Americans instinctively don't trust the boom on Wall

1. 1. 1 TV

. Were this reluctance to spend to happen in the UK, from a general economic point of view it would be very encouraging. If people save, then the economy is less likely to get over-heated, and the Government is less likely to have to stick up interest rates to cool it down. The US investment bank Salomon Brothers, which has done some work on the economic



Hamish McRae

It's the biggest cash hand-out this country has

known. What we do with it will shape not only our

At the moment there are just over four people of working age in the UK for every pen-sioner. By 2030, when the typ-ical 30-year-old Independent personal fortunes but reader of today will be thinking our whole of drawing his or her pension, there will be just over two-andsociety. a half. By 2040, when these people will be in their energetic 70s, there will be fewer still.

And of course the cost is not just in pensions. It is also in health care for the in numbers even faster.

the cash is mainly saved, interest rates will only go up 0.5 per cent this summer and stay

There is, however, another

and more disturbing aspect.

People who have money will

save it, which is fine. But what

of the people who don't? It is great that one-third of the adult

population of the country is get-

ing these gains, but that means

two-thirds are not. And the

problem is not just between one group of people who are a thousand or two richer than the

other group. It is between one

group who through their life-time will tend to be savers and

another who will tend not to be.

It is a division as stark as that

between home-owners and

council tenants, and it is going

to grow.

It is going to grow because governments have little option but to encourage people to save more for their old age.

This is not a Tory/Labour divi-

sion, though the rhetoric the

parties adopt may be different.
The harsh arithmetic of a
smaller population of working
age paying for a large one of
retired age means that govern-

ments have to try to persuade

as many people as possible to save for their own pensions.

below 7 per cent next year.

So expect enormous pressure to save. Governments of both parties will spend the next 30 years devising new ways of encouraging us, maybe bullying us, to put aside as much money as we can. It will not just be a new individual savings account, as suggested by New Labour. I would expect the UK to have a compulsory savings scheme, with money deducted from wages, by the year 2005, whichever parties win the next two elections.

: Besides, what do you do with people who could save, but won't? It is a great ethical dilemma. You could have two people on identical incomes all their lives, one who saves steadily, the other who spends up to their income. Should the saver pay taxes to support the spender in old age? If you say yes, you are agreeing to punish the prudent and reward the agreeing to punish the prudent and reward the feckless. If you say no, you risk widening divisions in society, widening the gap between the quite rich and the pretty poor.

For that is what these windfalls do. They reward the richest one-third of the country.

Nearly half the two highest socio-economic groups will get pay-outs, whereas only 17 per cent of the two lowest will get them.

There is no easy solution. We have to per-suade people to save more, which means rewarding savers so that they become richer. But we have also to persuade those people who have become rich through their own hard work and prudence to accept that some of the fruits of their labour will be taken away. The glue that impact of the windfalls, reckons that, provided holds society together depends on it.

Blair's Britain: only the beginning

by Andrew Marr

observer with a shred of historical cautious about this; over-cautious; even timid. And still, the polls may he very wrong. And still, John Major is a formidable campaigner. And Conservative Central Office is still a rich and well-oiled machine. But - Basta! On 2 May, barring the biggest upset in our democratic history, we will have a new government. Bit by bit, soundbite by soundbite, Blair's Britain is beginning.

But what kind of Britain will it be? That too depends, at least partly, on election day. A sharp narrowing of Labour's lead is possible - even, on past paral-lels, likely. Whether Tony Blair wins by a landslide or a short head will affect the duration and radicalism of his tenure of

Downing Street.
Is he in for 10 months or 10 years? Will be transform the country or merely oversee it? Big questions; yet despite them, the Conservatives seem to have

all but given up,
I don't mean that their enjoyment of power has weakened, or that they won't storm around the country warning of the terrible perils of the Blair Terror. Indeed, if anything, their enjoyment of the small comforts of office will increase and their thetoric will get more hysterical as the day of reckoning nears.

Yet, deep down, most have given up, including almost all of the Cabinet. Real parties, fighting serious campaigns to hold or win power, don't include in the idiot hickering of today's Tories. In real parties, senior figures turn on the enemy, not on one another. In real parties, the elder statesmen are supportive through hard times, not poisonous and gleeful about their colleagues' daily troubles. In real parties, there is a sense of common purpose which swamps the mevitable personal squabbles that are parr of daily political life - people back the leader, they don't gossip about

who'll replace him. Conservatives are ceasing to be a real fighting party. They have the offices, cars, salaries and titles of power, but they are losing authority. When a minister explains the latest government proposal, it now requires the willing suspension of disbelief before we consider the implications. When an Opposition spokesman, such as Jack Straw, makes an announcement, we think, at some barely-conscious level, "Ab, so that's what is going to happen.

This political collapse of stout party is particularly odd since the Tories have won almost all of the big political arguments of recent years. On taxation, public spending, priv-atisation, the market economy, less liberal attitudes to law and crime, parent power in education, and even the undesirability of European political union, they confront opponents who basically agree with them.



The Tories have all but given up. But if Labour wins, will it transform the country or just oversee it for a while?

Labour's pitch is not really that the convergence on many social Westminster elite, may feel in tually wrong - rather, that they have failed to deliver properly. and that Labour will now deliver a similar agenda much better. (Think of traditional education, or law and order, or monetary orthodoxy.) If the Conservatives are handing the country over, then they have thrown in a growing economy and a whole boxful of new, now

barely-challenged nostrums too. Yet Tony Blair's huge achievement is to have made it possible for the Middle English to vote Labour in large numbers for the first time in a generation. The glib, coffee-bar dismissal of Blairism is that it doesn't give voters enough choice. But if choice means the real prospect of an electable alternative, and not simply the opportunity to heckle a permanent Tory government, then without Blair and the other Labour reformers, Britain would have no choice at all.

forced abortions (why not?).

courts "where necessary" - all

liament. Readers can no doubt

imagine the kinds of prolonged

pressure, bullying, harassment and intimidation that will now

be used by professionals sup-

posed to be caring for women.

Think what goes on in police

stations. Are the medical and

midwifery professions now the

new "pregnancy police"?

There is literally no end to the

assaults, hrutality, indignities.

and sheer prejudice that could

flourish unchecked. But the

Court of Appeal, it seems, is

adamant. It ultimately has the

power to decide what adults

can do with their own bodies.

Violence can he ordered by

Indeed, in many areas, New And Britain does. Despite The realm, in the sense of the have a choice between different visions of a British future: different ideas about democracy. about our place in the world. Even, to put it pompously, our national destiny.

nced of defe

power centres. But the nation doesn't agree. Neither the prac-

tical objections to Brussels

meddling nor the rising doubt

about the future of Continen-

tal welfare-capitalism has yet

persuaded voters that the EU

is a monal danger to this country. For decades, Conserv-

atnes have benefited from the

phleumatic refusal of the Eng-

lish (in particular) to get excited

by political ideas. Now they are

heing penalised by it.

The Tories have become dazzled by the philosophical challenge of European Union - a proposition they cannot ignore and cannot accept. Their great purpose now is to defend one kind and level of power - parliamentary sovereignty, located at Westminster - against all comers. They are the Defence of the Realm Party. This mos traditional of political causes goes with a vision of an unregulated, vibrant economy, from which political control is absent at a local, regional or European

The Tories' problem is that only some of them think this way, and most of the country seems to regard it as a romantic, somewhat abstract crusade.

idea of Britain which seems pragmatic and - if we brush aside the rhetoric of New Labour. New Everything - unromantic. "Reform this. Do that better. Sweep aside old nonsenses. Use resources more efficiently." Talk to any senior New Labourite and you find they regard the EU as something to be used and exploited. not argued about.

The dangers for a Lahour or Lib-Lub government should hardly need spelling out. Pragmatic administrations are easily blown off course. In office, you may not need a detailed, year-by-year blueprint, but you certainly need a strong sense of direction. Meanwhile, the longer-term outlook for the public finances is not nearly as sunny as it seems today; and the history of the century suggests that the Tories will be back. revitalised and reunited, within a few years of defeat in the polls, however comprehensive.
If Blair wins a strong work-

ing majority in May, then we will soon see how seriously he takes this. Will he reshape the country's politics, so that Tory nationalism is marginalised and the failures of the party in power today are translated into longer-term defeat? Doing that will mean empowering local and regional politics, introducing a Bill of Rights, finally dealing with the Lords and - above all - changing the voting system: all the things traditionalists advise

Already the more intellectual Conservative journalists. such as Matthew Parris in The Times and Charles Moore in The Daily Telegraph, are wor-riedly warning Blair against tinkering with the Constitu-tion. The subliminal message seems to be: let us Tories deal with national destiny while you take a quick turn at the wheel. Moore even accuses Lahour of being high-handed and ruthlessly "Cromwellian". Coming from a champion of Lady That-cher, after 18 years of quangostuffing and centralising, and addressed to a party still in Opposition, this is a bit rich.

But as Tories, Parris and Moore are posing the right questions. Their worry is cloquent and justified: if Blair does "tinker" - and today's expected launch of the joint Labour-Lib Dem constitutional progamme implies he will then the Conservatives' failure to recover this spring will cost them much more than one general election. It may cost them their century-old leasehold on

Freedom tiptoes out the door

n 1972, Lord Reid, a top When judges
Law Lord, made a classic order women to statement of constitutional principle: "English law goes to great lengths to protect a person of full age and capacity from interference with his per-sonal liberty. We have too often seen freedom disappear in other countries, not only by coups d'état hut by gradual erosion: and often it is the first step that counts. So it would be unwise to make even minor Lord Reid was explaining

why a court could not force a man to have a blood test in a paternity dispute. But today's courts seem to adopt a different approach. This is what a High Court judge said when ordering a forced Caesarean in 1996; "I am afraid the Judge has to do what some may call rough justice. I do not think there is a possibility of giving attention to the legal niceties. I think the information [sic] of judges is to act on the advice of doctors of proper standing."

How can this be happening when many judges in the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords publicise their interest in seeing the European Convention on-Human Rights incor-porated into our law? Those calling for this innovation have included, the present Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham; the former Lord Chief Justice.

have forced Caesareans at the behest of doctors, the preoccupation of the judiciary with human

rights is called into question, says Barbara Hewson

Lords; to name but a few. Is the present preoccupation with numan rights more rhetorical

Just how effective are our senior courts at upholding human rights? The answer is debatable. Think of all the grotesque miscarriages of criminal justice in recent years, when judges imprisoned inno-cent people and the Court of Appeal turned a blind eye. On the civil side, think of the notorious order gagging Sarah Keays, and the recent decisions by the Master of the Rolls to "cap" the damages awarded by British juries against police when they falsely imprison and

Appeal gave a ruling in which it assumed that it had power to order a family living abroad to come to Britain for a forced liver transplant on a little boy. The court decided to respect the mother's decision not to subject her little boy to painful surgery. But it reserved the right to force surgery on somebody else next time.

Now pregnant women are on the agenda of the Court of Appeal. In a bizarre case, that court sat in secret session from 11pm on Wednesday 19 Febmary until 1.10am the following day to approve a decision

Lord Taylor, Lord Browne-Wilkinson of the House of non-consenting woman, whose doctors advice could be tried non-consenting woman, whose foetus was in the hreech position, to undergo a Caesarean that she did not want. She was alleged to have a "needle pho-bia". She was not in labour and her life was not in danger. The court was ready, in the early hours when no one was about, to violate this woman's

> In the future, pregnant women who reject their doctors' advice could be tried

fundamental human rights by ordering forced surgery on her. It also approved a gagging order, prohibiting identification of the woman, the doctors. the hospital, the NHS Trust or the health authority involved. Ominously, the court has

apparently said it will provide guidance for future cases". What this means, I fear, is that it will provide a formula whereby doctors and hospitals. and their lawyers, can "fit

tents", like coma victims, small children and the severely mentally disabled, over whom the by judges, as witches were centuries ago. They could be constate can claim total dominion. victed of "incompetency", and subjected to house arrest, tor-This particular woman's case, like earlier ones, was dealt with in a rushed "emerture or inhuman and degrading treatment in state hospitals. Forced epidurals, forced gency hearing. This time, the

hearing was followed by a episiotomies, forced pubic shaving, forced forceps deliv-eries, forced general anaes-thetic, forced Caesareans, scramble to the Court of Appeal, which gave way in exactly the same manner as the lower court.
The Official Solicitor, who forced medication, forced in was involved in an early stage in this case, is a public official utero foetal surgery, forced detention, forced vaginal examinations, forced Aids testing, forced foetal screening.

who normally acts for children. He also acts for mental patients and coma victims. In a previous case, he presented the argument in tayour of forced intervention. His offiwithout the authority of Parcials have liaised with hospitals in other cases. Where he is involved in applications for court orders against women. the court has generally ordered intervention.

Such is the lack of judicial attention to fundamental human rights these days that it appears that even the Court of Appeal no longer cares that women's basic civil liberties are being eroded by stealth, and without Parliament's authority. Rough justice is the order of the day.

The writer is a barrister who spe-Pregnant women are seemcialises in the fields of sex disingly a new class of incompecrimination and materially rights

Blair, by contrast, offers an How much do you love me?



THIS MUCH?

For just £1 a week, you can sponsor an abandoned dog like me today. You'll be helping the National Canine Defence League to give me, or another dog who may never be re-homed, a safe and happy life at one of its rescue centres. You'll also help the NCDL to care for other needy dogs. In return, you'll get a sponsor's certificate, updates on your dog - and unconditional love from your new friend. Now, isn't that a pound well spent?

Please send me on FREE poster guide on two chances a de la Mesta a Mario oper	ok tir element torget.
de Mes Mes abor	
<u></u>	
Portrade	4.0
lease return this form to: Sponsor 4 Dog. NCDL.	
REESONT LCINKSON, PCI Box 7012, Lindon E1 SBR.	NCDL

Global

accord

to end IT

tariffs

nears

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is confident of siguing a long-awaited global information

technology accord this month to scrap tariffs and open the way for a wast expansion of the \$600bn (£370bn) global industry.

The WTO said yesterday that more than 90 per cent of countries and of the \$600bn

tries needed for the accord had

agreed to scrap tariffs on infor-mation technology (IT). The or-ganisation added that "it was confident" that the rest would

soon follow.
The US, the European Union,

Japan and more than a dozen

other countries had agreed in December in Singapore to re-

move tariffs on computer mon-itors, chips and other products by 2000. They set a deadline of 15 March to enlist other nations,

and that process was largely complete, the WTO said.

Companies that make com-

puter and telecommunications equipment, such as ICL, Racal, Psion: Hitachi and Samsung

Electronics, stand to profit from

an abolition of tariffs.
"We want tariffs to be lifted

as quickly as possible," said Karl

Leitenberger, an executive in

the economics department of Siemens. German producers

could benefit even more than

their US counterparts, he said, hecause European tariffs and

imports are high.

Renato Ruggiero, directorgeneral of the WTO, said the Geneva-based arbiter of world.

trade had commitments from

countries representing more than 90 per cent of the world

market in IT products, "putting us over the threshold that was

business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

BT starts fight to win over US shareholders

Chris Godsmark Washington

British Telecom is to launch an unprecedented marketing campaign in the US in an attempt to convince sceptical American investors about the merits of its planned £13bn merger with long-distance carrier MCl. before crucial shareholders' votes on both sides of the Atlantic next month.

At a series of road-shows for the US investment community over the next few weeks, BT will seek to head off any moves by sharebolders to sell their stock immediately after the merger is completed, risking a downward spiral in the price. BT has claimed the tie-up will boost the two sides' profits by £500m in five years through improved global marketing and savings on equipment procurement.

Under the terms of the deal. existing MCl shareholders will get 5.4 shares in BT - which will be renamed Concert after the two companies' business communications joint-venture - and are to vote on the merger at

approve the deal at an extraorlinary general meeting at Wembley Arena on 15 April.

James Ross, telecoms analyst at stockbrokers Hoare Govett, explained: "There's obviously going to be some stock flowing back from the US because investors there won't want to keep it. The merged company won't sit so easily in their portfolios be-cause it will clearly no longer be a domestie organisation.

The scepticism explains BT's plans to get permission to buy hack up to 10 per cent of its shares immediately following the merger, which is due to be completed on 1 October. The move would enable BT to mop up any Concert stock dumped in the US. Shareholders will be asked to endorse the buy-back

at the EGM in April.
What worries US shareholders
most is that MCI's famously aggressive marketing-led culture. sharpened through bitter battles with arch-rival AT&T will be swamped by BT's background as a bureaucratic, state-owned monopoly. Though MCI's domestic US business will continue to

BT shareholders will be asked to UK management will exert a

Moves by British executives to end MCI's long-standing policy of rewarding staff with generous share options is the most obvious example of the looming culture shock, MCI's annual report, filed this week, shows that options worth \$195m (£121m) were issued to staff in 1996, up from \$167m the year before. Insiders estimate the merger will create at least 200 MCI millionaires.

Mark Lambert of NatWest Securities sums up the problem: "Concert will be a very different vehicle to MCI, It'll have lower growth than the American business and be less highly motivat-ed managerially. If MCI has a fantastic year, it all gets diluted if BT merely has a good year."

The gap in growth prospects from the two companies' traditional markets is also yawning. In the nine months to December BT's turnover grew by 4.3 per cent to £11.13bn. MCI's annual revenues in 1996 grew by 21 per cent. to \$18.5bn. It is hardly surprising that investors are sceptical about BT's claim that MCI's annual meeting on 2 he run mostly independently the deal will enable both com-April, while more than 2 million from BT investors suspect the panies to grow more quickly.



Culture clash: Gerald Taylor (left), chief executive of the 'attack organisation' MCI, and Sir Peter Bonfield, his BT counterpart

are having to get to know a lot more about MCl, which many regard as having historically put risk before reward. At the first analysts' road-show in Washington this week, MCI said it was considering acceler-ating its push into the \$100bn-

Conversely, British investors a-year US local telephone market as competition is gradually introduced. A 1996 law will progressively end the monopoly of local phone companies, the so-called Baby Bells, which were split off from AT&T in 1984. The changes will also allow regional operators to com-

pete with MCI in the long-dislance market for the first time.

So far MCI has pledged to invest \$1bn huilding local fibre-optic networks, of which some \$600m will be spent this year. However Nate Davis, senior vice president of local mar-

pushed much further and brushed off the threat from the regional operators in the longdistance market. "They are go-ing to be spending their time protecting their market share. We are going to be spending our time taking market share as an kets, said investment could be attack organisation.

ಷಟ ಅದನಾರಗಳ

10.00

No Section

(37)

427 3

set for an agreement" Siemens said an accord would save the company between DM70m and DM100m (£25m and £36m) a year starting in 2000, based on current imports. In December, LG Electronics, uth Korea's second-biggest

electronics producer, said it would double its overseas earnings if tariffs were removed. The WTO said Malaysia, Thailand and India were among countries that pledged in recent days to scrap tariffs. Malaysia

accounts for about 5 per cent of the global industry.
"This should give companies more financial muscle to offset

sharp price competition in this industry," said Bernhard Rohleder, a spokesman for Eurobit, an industry group which represents 90 per cent of the European IT market. Most of the benefits would probably get passed on to customers, though an accord would belp compa-

Import duties totalled 1.6bn ocus (£1.13bn) in Europe last year, said Eurobit, which estimated the average computer would be 50 ecus cheaper with-Market report, page 23 out tariffs.

Halifax could have another £3bn to hand out after float

Banking Correspondent

Halifax Building Society could or return to its millions of new shareholders after it floats on the stock market in June.

The society will have the largest shareholder register in the UK when its 8.5 million members each receive an estimated average of £1,300 in free shares in the £12bn flotation that will result in Hulifax becoming a bank. Halifax's strong financial position means that they could be in line for further bonus payouts after the flotation, provided they remain investors.

Roger Boyes, Halifax's group finance director, said vesterday that the use of the excess money was an urgent matter. "But, we're not going to knee-jerk on it," he said.

We have not ruled out repatriating capital to shareholders.

Mr Boves said. But he stressed this did not imply that Halifax would definitely return capital

to shareholders after the flotabusinesses.



to be one of the winners'

ily amount to £3bn. Their calculations are based on the fact that Halifax has a tier-one" capital ratio of 14 per cent. The Bank of England requires banks to maintain a ratio of 4 per cent but in practice most banks operate with capital ratios well above this level. Most high street hanks have ratios between 6

and 8 per cent.
At 31 December, 1996. Hatifax had £6.87bn of tier-one capital, which is essentially its reserves. It could function easily with half this amount of capital and still conform with

its banking rivals. The question now, the \$64,000 question, is what do we do with this ... It has to be put to work," Mr Boves said.

When Halifax becomes a bank it will come under pressure to produce the best possible returns for shareholders.

tion. He pointed to alternative ways to use the money, such as making acquisitions, developing the precise amount of excess capital into its reserves while its hanking rivals have redistributed surplus cash to lenders, Hall "Our strategy is to put this capital to good use." Mr Boyes

Halifax yesterday reported pre-tax profits, before exceptionals, of £1.43bn in 1990, a

rise of 6.6 per cent. Mike Blackburn, chief executive of Halifax, said the society had restructured its senior management to reflect its main line of businesses.

"We intend to be one of the winners in what will be an

The society took a lo per cent of share, or £11.5bn, of gross mortgage lending last year. This is less than its more traditional 20 per cent share of the mortgage market.

Mr Blackburn said pricing of mortgage offers had returned to more acceptable levels last year, although Halifax still spent £626m in offering cash-

Mr Boyes refused to disclose In the past, it has put its excess backs and discounts to

Unlike many other mortgage lenders, Halifax accounts for the they are incurred. It said since 1994/5 its profits had been reduced by £472m as a result of this accounting policy.

Aside from the core mortgage business, the society took an 8 per cent share of the new current accounts opened in the UK last year. It now has more than 1.6 million current account holders, a rise of 28 per cent during the year.

Halifax took an exceptional charge last year of £153m to cover the cost of its conversion to a hank and a charge of £298m to cover the costs of its integration and merger with Leeds Permanent. The total cost of that merger was £331m as £33m of costs were taken in 1995.

Since the merger, Halifax has reduced the number of hranches and cut 1,200 head office jobs. It has also created 1,000 jobs in other business

Pearson may face lawsuit

The unauthorised discounting scandal which last month engulfed Pearson, the publishing. to television conglomerate, report that the US arm of its Penguin publishing subsidiary could face legal action from independent booksellers.

announced a \$163m (£100m) charge in the wake of the discovery that Christina Galatro, a former credit manager in its New Jersey office, had been hid-ing unsanctioned discounts to retailers in the company's accounts. But a report in the US vesterday said that Penguin USA was now being accused by independent booksellers of not extending to them discounts available to large retailers.

The American Booksellers Association (ABA) was reported as saying it was consid-ering mounting a lawsuit against the company on allegations of offering unfair discounts. A spokesman said the board had discussed this and other possible courses of action, which he

did not detail, at a meeting yesterday morning. The association boped to make a further announcement in the next few days, he added.

Magnus Grimond

A lawyer for the Association aid the discounts could violate a consent decree the New Yorkbased Penguin signed in 1995. According to Jerald Jacobs, a lawyer with Jenner and Block, Penguin USA has already the Washington firm that represents the ABA. "We believe Penguin was giving large amounts of credit to only the very largest booksellers. If the practice occurred after the consent decree was signed, Penguin

> The company was one of several large US publishers which signed consent orders promising not to favour big chains with discounts. Michael Lynton, Penguin's chief executive since last year, said he didn't know yet which retailers were offered discounts.

may be in violation of a court

Pearson is expected to give details of its investigation into the affair when it announces its annual results in two weeks.

nies too, he said.

Suppliers ask watchdog to block British Gas price cuts

Independent gas suppliers and gas consumers yesterday called on the industry regulator Ofgas to block new price cuts announced by British Gas, warning that they could destroy attempts to open up the market to full competition.

The calls followed confirmation that British Cas Home Energy is offering households in the South-west discounts of 12 per cent - equivalent to £40 off the average annual bill of £330 - in an effort to stem the loss of customers to rival suppliers.

The Gas Consumers' Council described the price reductions as "premature" while rival gas suppliers warned that if could wreek the Government's attempts to liberalise the domestic gas market.

Clare Spottiswoode, director general of Ofgas, immediately launched a four-week consultation exercise after which she will decide whether the price cuts should be allowed to stand. The new tariff applies only to customers paying by direct debit. Since the South-west was

opened up to full competition lası April. British Gas has lost 19 per cent of the market. About 95,000 of the 500,000 households in Cornwall, Devon and Somerset have switched to rival suppliers, lured by discounts of up to 20 per cent on British Gas's standard tariff.

etition began among 600,000 households in Avon and Dorset last month and a third trial involving 90(0000 eustomers in Sussex and Kent begins this

Peter Franklin, joint general manager of Calortex, one of the biggest independent suppliers in the South-west, with about 45,000 customers, said; "We are extremely concerned at this move, which poses a significant threat to the development of competition. British Gas is still nine times the size of the next biggest supplier and competition is still only in its infancy. This is abuse of a dominant position designed to frustrate the growth of competition and private-sector monopoly. He also pointed out that the South-west was the most ex-

pensive area of the country to supply, being furthest away from the east coast, where gas comes ashore. By cutting prices in the region and keeping them higher elsewhere. British Gas was using monopoly profits from areas of the country where it did not face competition to subsidise the South-west.

Alan Lias, managing director of Beacon Gas, which has signed up 40.000 customers for the trials in Sussex and Kent starting later this week, said: "We will be objecting very vigorously. British Gas should not be allowed to start competing on price until it

has lost at least 50 per cent of its domestic market." to the new tariff can give their meter reading and go on to the Sue Slipman, director of the

GCC, said the British Gas move could widen the already large price differential between rich and poor customers and said it remained unconvinced that sufticient competition had built up. Mike Alexander, managing director of British Gas Trading. defended the move, saying that one in four direct debit customers in the South-west had already switched to more competitive suppliers since last

April, proving that competition was now fully established. A special bottine opens today for customers to request application forms. Any customers who telephone asking to switch

meter reading and go on to the tariff immediately.

Rivals fear that if the price cuts are allowed to stand then British Gas will be able to repeat the tactics in other trial areas more quickly. According to industry estimates as many as 110,000 customers in Sussex and Kent - 12 per cent of the market - could switch suppliers on day one. In the South-west trial the comparative figure was 6.5 per cent. Mr Lias of Beacon Gas, a

joint venture between Amoco and the local electricity supplier Seeboard, said that if the regulator did not step in. British Gas could be competing on price and winning back customers within six months.

Index Latest Yr Ago Next Figs:

Millionaire behind Lotus killed in crash

The Malaysian millionaire Tan Sri Yahaya Ahmad, who took control of the Norfolk-based car maker Lotus in a £51m deal last year, was killed along with his wife in a belicopter crash on Monday, it was disclosed

The news cast a pall over the Hethel factory, shocking Lotus's 1,100 workers and producing a flood of tributes to Yahaya, who was a close friend of the Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and one of the country's most powerful

Yahaya, 50, was chairman of the giant Malaysian holding company Hicom, which owns the car maker Proton and several other industrial, export, finance and banking companies. He invested £10m of his personal fortune in the takeover of Lotus last October, taking a 16 per cent stake in the company.

Proton took a further 64 per cent giving the Malaysians a controlling 80 per cent stake. News of his death emerged on the same day as Lotus announced further investment at the Hethel plant on new engine test facilities. Under its new ownership, production is being

expanded to 2,500 cars a year

with output of the Elise model

due to increase from 750 last year to 1,900 in 1997. Production of the Espait is expected to rise from 300 to 400 cars a year.

A spokesman said that Yahaya's death would not affect its investment plans although he was unable to say what would happen to his shareholding. Romano Artioli, the Italian

entrepreneur and former Lotus chairman who brokered last autumn's deal and still retains a 20 per cent minority stake. said: "Ian Sri was a great friend of Lotus who believed in the company traditions and appreciated the exceptional ability of its engineers. He had a great vision for the future of the company and we will ensure that we succeed in carrying through

this vision." Yahaya and his wife were killed flying to the eastern state of Pahang. The pilot of the belicopter was also killed. The cause of the crash is under

investigation. Yahaya, an automotive engineer who gained a degree from Loughborough University, was one of a handful of well-connected ethnic Malay, or "Burniputera" entrepreneurs groomed to boost efficiency and bolster exports from Malaysia's lumbering state enterprises. In 1995, he took the reins of Malaysia's "national" car maker, Proton

Indices Day's change Change(%) 1996/97 Nigh 1996/97 Low York(%) 3632.30 3.66 4015.30 3.36 FTSE 190 4357.70 +50.60 +1210 4666.60 FTSE 350 2154.40 1816 60 3 <u>59</u> +20 90 +179 2356 22 1954 06 2 30 FT All Share _+19.11 _ +0.9 2126 38 1791 95 3.54 706T 46 5032.94 18561.78 +135.65 22656 80 17303.65 0.881 -57.20 +56.80 Hong Kong Frankfurt 13450 08 10204 87 3 16† 3320 66 2253 36 1 50† Source: FT Information

STOCK MARKETS

Dow Janes

INTEREST RATES 6 20 <u># T. f 9</u> loney Market Rates | Medium Boad (%) Long Board (%) Year Agr 5.34 0.41 G 65 __3,22

Price (s) Charge by Charge's Falls

Sti Ferniture Gro. 156 5

Thistle Hotels

Pound Testerday Change Than Ago \$ (London) 1.6172 -0.23c 1.5282 £ (London) 0.6184 +0.55 0.6544 £ (N York) ± 0 6240 +0.53 0 6547 OM (London) 2 7644 +2 1901 2 2553 DM (London) 1.7094 + 1.60pt 1.4758 ¥ (London) 197 009 +Y1.333 160,675 <u>Y (London) 121.825 +Y1 105,140</u> 98.5 +0.5 83.6 \$ Index 104.1 +0.8 95.6

OTHER INDICATORS

223.99 4.16 257.69 Base Rates -- 6.00pc 6.75

<u>-0.69 17.50 RPI 154.4 - 146.0 13 Mar</u> <u>4.1 393.80 GDP 109.7+2.6oc 107.0 25 Apr</u>

CURRENCIES

المكذا من الأصل

Yesterday Day's chig Year Ago

362.75

18 78 -0 69 17 50 RPI

Gold S

Cool Br sports t

4.0

140.072

- n₂

Con:

COMMENT

management with

such a stash burning

a hole in its pocket

really be expected

sensible approach?

Bitter experience

to adopt such a

Could any

What will Halifax do with all that money?

ا هدوا من الأصل

What an extraordinarily wealthy beast Halifax Building Society is turning out to be. The first surprise was that this stodgy old institution should be worth anything at all, when floated on the stock market this June, it will be valued at upwards of £12bn, a sum that past generations of members would not have believed possible. The second, revealed in giorious technicolour by yesterday's full-year results, is that Halifax contains with-in it an embarrassment of riches that have the potential to wreak havoc in the saving and

mortgage lending markets.
The profits first. An increase of "just" 6.6 per cent to £1.43bn may not seem much set against some banks, but it actually rather understates the position. Halifax has chosen the conservative approach in accounting for the cost of mortgage incentives, writing them off against profits in the year they are incurred - £626m of it last year. Others, Lloyds TSB, Woolwich and Abbey National included, have been less guarded in their approach, choosing to amortise these costs

Over several years.

But the real talking point about these results is that seemingly arcane thing - tier one capital. Halifax's ratio of free capital to habilities at 14 per cent is about double the norm for UK high street banks and even more comfortably in excess of recommended international levels. A swift back-of-the-envelope calculation reveals that this leaves Halifax with roughly £3.5bn of surplus capSo what to do with all that money? There have gone far enough, took a £654,000 pay are three options - spend it on acquisitions. cut last year after ICT's profits fell off a cliff. spend it on organic growth by launching a fierce price war in existing markets, or give it to shareholders. Of the three the latter would seem to have most to commend it. There will be millions of members trying to dump their free shares in the early months after floration. Designing a scheme to mop up all that excess with the company's own money would surely be a comparatively easy thing.

This, however, may be to expect too much from a management which has already begun to talk, all misty-cycd, about its longterm "mission". Could any management newly unleashed on the publicly quoted sector, and with such a stash of money burning a hole in its pocket, really be expected to adopt such an eminently sensible approach? Bitter experience ought to suggest that it could not. The Halifax "mission" is to become "the leading provider of personal financial services in the UK". Halifax certainly has the money and the size to buy that position, but has it also got the nous? The risk of profligate use of capital seems high.

Picture at ICI is not what it seems

Times are hard round at ICL Sir Ronnie Hampel, who divides his time between chairing the company and trying to decide enjoyed double-whether the corporate governance fascists had this excuse.

Quite right too, you might think from the nan who has been handed the baton by Sir Adrian Cadhury. What better example of hoardroom probity, responsibility and accountability could there be than this sacrifice from the chairman of the Hampel Committee?

The magnanimity did not stop there. Charles Miller Smith, drafted in as chief executive from Unilever two years ago, also saw bis remuneration dwindle, although by the less speciacular amount of £84,000. Ditto the rest of the boardroom team who took their share of the pain as profits plummeted by £348m and earnings per share shrank by

This collective donning of the hairshirt is not quite what it seems at first glance. Nearly all of the reduction in Sir Ronnie's pay was due to two factors: moving from the chief executive's job to the role of chairman and the payment in 1995 of a thumping £425,000 bonus for pulling off the Zeneca demerger.

The picture with the other board members is also less black and white. Even though each one took a headline cut in pay, their basic salary during the annus horribilis in question actually rose. In Mr Miller Smith's case this was partly due to him only having served as chief executive for part of the year in 1995. None of the other directors, who all enjoyed double-digit increases in their basic,

For all ICI's woes, Mr Miller Smith still pocketed £500,000 just for turning up to work in 1996. Rob Margetts, who has been put in charge of ICI's problem child, industrial chemicals, got an increase in his basic from £285,000 to £325,000 while the finance director, Alan Spall, went from £267,000 to

But hey, guys, just remember that no one got an annual bonus in 1996. Given the company's parlous financial performance that is scarcely surprising. What may puzzle share-holders is why anyone took home a bigger basic when profits and earnings were going in the other direction.

The game is up for Littlewoods' stores

Tames Ross is absolutely right to sell Littlewoods' retail arm - it is a duff business which has shown no response to the intensive care lavished on it in recent years. Whether he is likely to achieve the price he wants is less clear cut. His claim that Littlewoods will only sell the husiness as a going concern is so much hooey. No one would want to run the stores as they stand, so this is only ever going to be a property deal and the £450m Iceland was prepared to pay for the sites a year ago may not he so very different from the price tag Asda or Tesco might attach to the sites.

The extent of the operation's problems was

underscored by vesterday's announcement of flat operating profits in the year to December. Despite pouring £140m of capital investment into the husiness over the past three years, profits still languish well below the level they achieved in 1993. With like-for-like sales growing at only 3 per cent in the runup to Christmas, barely half the rate achieved by sharper peers, Mr Ross has realised the game is up for this tired old brand.

For Littlewoods the company, the decision to sell marks an extraordinary U-turn in strategy. Three years ago, when Littlewoods last assessed its mix of businesses, the future was said to lie in retail. It was mail order that was earmarked for sale. Still, one of the merits of wholesale management clear-outs is the opportunity they give new brooms to reverse their predecessors' mistakes. Littlewoods has a tiny share of the high street and has proved itself inadequate to the task of keeping up with the increasingly competitive pace. In mail order, if it gets the MMC's nod on the planned Freemans deal, it will at least be neck and neck with GUS with a quarter of the market.

There is a lot to do at Littlewoods, espe cially if the rumoured flotation is less offthe-agenda than Mr Ross claims. The group finds itself in the unenviable position of earning a poor return of 8 per cent on its employed capital, a full 3 percentage points lower than the cost of those funds. If the Moores family is unhappy with that, the City is unlikely to be any more impressed.

Retail concerns: Tough time for furniture chain Buyers are sought for high street straggler

MFI shares crash after slow trade warning

Magnus Grimond

Shares in MFI Furniture back of improvements in the crashed 40.5p to 156.5p yester-bousing market. Yesterday full-day, wiping £239m off the mar-year forecasts tumbled from as ket value of the UK's biggest high as £90m to around £70m furniture retailer, after it to £80m for the current year and warned of a sharp slowdown in from £120m to between £90m, second-half trading. The news, - and £100m for 1997-98. covering MFI's crucial new year sale period, underlines the stilltragile state of the housing of the shares, said yesterday's market, which tends to lead news "emphasised the volatilisales of the sort of fitted tyand unpredictability of MFI's kitchens, bedrooms and housewares sold by the group. Similar retailers fell in

sympathy, with Carpetright sliding 20.5p to 604p and DFS, the furniture group, wilting

14.5p to 595p. In a scheduled trading update, MFI revealed that underlying sales growth in the UK had almost halved from 13.5 per cent to just 7.1 per cent in the 16 weeks of the second half to date, including the 10-week sale period to 2 March when it traditionally achieves around 30 per cent of its annual turnover.

John Randall, chief executive, said: "In September, I made it clear we had not seen any improvement in the housing market and I don't see any reason to change that view, I don't think it's anything like enough to talk up a boom and I don't think it is anything like enough to sustain the sort of sales increases we saw in the first half."

But he admitted he was at a loss to explain why trading had decelerated so much across the year. In December, the group announced a 62 per cent jump in profits to £32.7m for the first half and most analysts had been. MFI to the Homeworks brand.

malle.

n cras

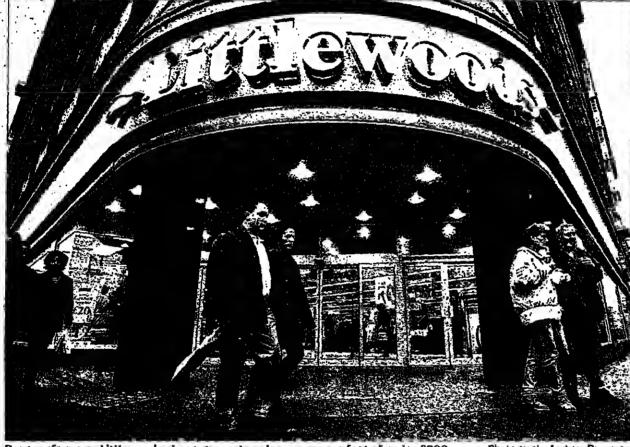
factoring in a continuation of the first-half sales trend on the

Tony Shiret of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, a long-time bear performance. He said he had iways been a seller because of the cyclicality of the group.

"I always thought this was going to be its peak year, or maybe next year. There is probably going to be some sort of tightening of policy towards the consumer next year by the new-government." This was likely to outweigh any revival in the housing market, building society windfalls and the effects of the group's new Homeworks format, he suggested.

MFI said sales through Homeworks, designed to give an airier feel to stores selling a. wider range of bnusehold goods, were growing in doubledigit percentages, while those in unconverted stores were going backwards at a "modest" per-centage rate. Eighty-one of the group's 185 outlets are now converted to Homeworks and Mr Randall said they would do the

rest over the next two years. He dismissed fears that the growth differential between the two chains could be widened in the autumn when the group plans to switch the emphasis of its national advertising from the



Poor performers: Littlewoods shops generate sales per square foot of under £200 Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Littlewoods stores up for sale

Tom Stevenson City Editor.

Tesco, Asda and Kingfisber were being tipped yesterday as the most likely bidders for the 135-strong retail chain put up for sale by mail order to pools group Littlewoods.

Littlewoods said it was inviting bids for the business but moved to quell unrest among its 10,000 retail staff yesterday by saying it would only sell the un-derperforming high street stores if it was able to sell the whole business as a going concern. It also said it would keep the operation unless it achieved a reasonable price, thought to be well in excess of £500m.

The shop workers' union, Usdaw, expressed anger at the way too proposed disposal was leaked to the press before staff Mr Ross said yesterday a sale 3 per cent, means profits from were consulted. Michael Gorof the whole business was not the division still languish £5m

don, a union spokesman, said: a possibility and a rumoured "I shall he seeking a firm com-flotation was off the agenda. mitment from Littlewoods.. that any prospective buyer will guarantee continuity of em-

ployment and pension rights for

our members. James Ross, the former Cable & Wireless chief executive who took the helm at Littlewoods last year, said it had decided to sell its stores operation following a strategic review and consultation with the Liverpool-based group's 32 shareholders.

The family is understood to have become impatient with the retail division's lack of progress and came close to selling the company at the end of 1995 when a consortium put together by Sir David Alliance of N Brown was narrowly rehuffed. flotation was off the agenda. Littlewoods is Britain's

largest privately owned company, wholly owned by members of the family of John Moores, who founded a pools business in the 1920s before diversifying into mail order and then moving onto the high street in 1937.

The decision to sell the shops reverses the group's policy in re-cent years when it planned to sell the mail order side and concentrate on retail. In the meantime, the shops have continued to fall behind their peers with sales per square foot of under £200 a shadow of the estimated £600 generated by rival Next.

The poor performance of the shops, where like-for-like sales growth in the run-up to Christmas was a below-average

below the £38m achieved in 1993 despite the investment of £140m of capital in the interim

Mr Ross said he expected interest from around half a dozen potential buyers and he hoped to have secured a bid within three months. The company declined to say what would be an acceptable price for the business hut described a £450m offer made hy frozen food retailer Iceland in 1995 as "wholly inadequate".

Following any sale Little-woods would focus on its home shopping and pools businesses and would reinvest the proceeds in its mail order operations where it is proposing to acquire Sears' Freemans business for

Littlewoods announced a 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year to December from

IN BRIEF

Prism orders 44 trains from Porterbrook

Prism Rail awarded a contract worth £17m a year for 44 new trains to Porterbrook Leasing, owned by Stagecoach and ADtranz ABB Daimler-Benz Transportation. The trains will be supplied to Prism's LTS Rail subsidiary, which runs the London to Southend line, by November 1999. They will replace slam-door carriages, most of which are over 30 years old, and will be leased from Porterbrook and made and maintained by ADtranz, Separately, Porterbrook won contracts from West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive and Central Trains for the fleet management of 12 Class 323 vehicles. The initial contract for seven years is valued at £13m and, including future lease options, totals £33m.

German current account deficit at DM3bn

Germany had a current account deficit of DM3bn (£).1bn) in December, compared with a revised surplus of Dm400m in November, the Federal Statistics Office said. November's surplus was orginalby reported as DM200m. The trade surplus declined to DM7.2hn in December from DM9,8hn in November, For the whole of 1996, Germany had a current account deficit of DM26.6bn and a trade surplus of DM97.6bn, compared with a current account deficit of DM29.9bn and a trade surplus of DM85.3bn in the previous year.

Profits fall at Transport Development

Transport Development Group announced a fall in full-year taxable profits from £36,08m to £35.18m, and beld the dividend payout at 9.5p. Martin Llowarch, chairman, said: "Logistics markets continue to be tough and despite undoubted growth potential, margins overall are not improving significantly and remain too low across the sector." The consolidation of the industry, which was much discussed in 1996, had not bappened, he added. "In 1997, we do not expect an early improvement in the hire division's profits, and the employment costs we have incurred to equip ourselves to achieve renewed growth in our logistics division will take time to produce results."

JIB Group returns to the black

JIB Group, the insurance company, reported a sharp turnround from losses of £49.6m to profits of £27.54m in 1996, but said competition, low interest rates and the strength of sterling remained challenges for the insurance broking business in 1997. There is a second interim dividend of 5p. lifting the total payout to 8.5p (7.5p).

Wiggins to take over Tomorrows Leisure

Wiggins Group made an agreed £16.2m takeover bid for Tomorrows Leisure. The offer will be made on the basis of one new Wiggins share for every Tomorrows Leisure share. Wiggins already has 25 per cent of Tomorrows Leisure and has been represented on the board since January 1995. Oliver Inv. chief executive of Wiggins, said: "This merger will allow us to unlock the potential of Tomorrows Leisure's prime development sites in Essex and Liverpool."

Redundancies cost Greenalls £7.3m

Greenalls Group, the pub and hotels company, is to take a £7.3m charge in the current year to September as a result of a roorganisation and redundancy programme which is set to cost some 100 divisional head-office jobs. The company said it is to merge its Premier House operations with its managed pub division and to transfer 245 managed houses to its franchise division.

Computer Cab prices AIM flotation

Computer Cab has priced its AIM flotation at 80p per share, giving a market capitalisation of £8.25m. The company is to place 4.875 million shares and expects to raise £3.3m. First dealings in the shares are expected on 4 April. The placing and offer for subscription will provide funds for the installation of its mobistar satellite-based global positioning system, reduce reliance on bank finance and provide working capital. In the year to September 1996 Computer Cab made pre-tax profits of £512,000 (£452,000).

'Cool Britannia' lifts exports to South Korea

Andrew Marshall

British exports to South Korea leapt by 25 per cent last year, according to the lastest figures compiled in Seoul. But the good news is mixed with concern that a campaign against imports of hunry Western goods is hitting British trade.

Britain exported \$2.9bn (£1.8bn) worth of goods to South Korea last year, up from 52.4bn the year before. It is gaining market share over other EU countries: though Germany and Italy both export more (\$7.2bn and \$3.1bn respectively). Britain's increase in exports is far greater than the average EU increase of 17 per cent. Britain is the seventh largest exporter to Korea, behind the US, Japan. China, Germany, Australia and Italy. Britain imported \$3.2bn of goods from Korea in 1996. leaving a small and shrinking

South Korea, one of the most dynamic economies in East Asia, is a leading target for exporters around the world. It bas recently gained entry to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and has an average growth rate of about 8 per cent per annum,

though growth slowed last year.
British business and government have put considerable time and effort into promoting trade and investment relations with Korca, and the evidence is that this is paying off. The biggest growth in exports in the last year has been in machinery - printing machinery, machine tools, engineering components - electrical machinery and aerospace goods. This year, Britain is hoping to capitalise on its strengths in the Korean market through a series of trade shows, visits and exhibitions linked to the bicentenary of the first

Briton to arrive in Korea. One of the key aims is to shift the perception of Britain from the traditional idea of a nation steeped in history but ill-suited to produce modern goods, and to promote a kind of "Cool Britannia" image of a country which

is modern, technologically skilled and fashionable. Amongst the companies to promote their goods will be Paul Smith, the leading men's clothes designer. But something of a shadow has been east over trade relations by

n strenuous campaign in Korea against luxury Western goods. The Korean government has become concerned by the rise in the country's trade deficit, which il blames partly on the taste of the nation's wealthy for the trappings of the Western good life. British officials and businessmen say that this is translating into administrative restrictions on imports. The Korcan government rejects this, saying that no

official action has been taken. British officials claim there is tax discrimination against whisky imports in favour of local spirits. But there have also been protest rallies against Western spirits, and British officials say officials are impeding the import of whisky through extra paperwork and customs checks. Similiar problems afflict exports of silk ties and cosmedes.

Boeing expects plane orders to top \$1,100bn improving since 1995, when

Boeing yesterday increased its forecast for the number of new airplanes that the world's airlines will order over the next 20 years from 15,900 to 16,160. The orders will be worth about \$1,100bn (£680hn),

claims Boeing in its annual report on the market for new pasenger aircraft. Demand for new airolanes would be driven by a 4.9 per cent average annual increase in air traffic, Boeing said.

The industry continues on the upswing," said Bruce Dennis, vice president for marketing at Boeing's commercial airplane group. "It looks good out there. However, Boeing's forecast for the increase in air travel was

slightly less optimistic than it as last year. The company predicted then that air travel would grow 5.1 per cent a year through to 2015, compared with yesterday's revised forecast of 4.9 per ceot to take account of slower

Boeing's orders have been

growth in the US.

airlines started to replace age-ing fleets. Airlines have also been increasing the size of their Orders for Boeing aircraft al-

most doubled to a record \$53bn The world's largest commercial airplane maker took orders for 717 aircraft last year, compared with 346 in 1995 and just

120 in 1**994**. Mr Dennis said the Seattlebased airplane maker would see strong orders again this year. though he declined to be specific. Bocing will produce 40 airplanes a month in the fourth quarter of this year, its bighest

output. There are about 11,500 jetliners flying today, 7.000 of which were made by Boeing. The world's fleet will grow to 23,600 passenger and cargo planes by 2016.

That number accounts for older planes that are retired from service.

The higgest demand for new aircraft will come from Asia,

where Boeing expects air travel to grow 6.6 per cent a year, compared with 3.1 per cent in

Airlines in the Pacific will account for 33 per cent of the \$1,100bn that will be invested in new planes in the next 20

There would be more demand for smaller airplanes. carrying between 100 and 240 passengers, Boeing said. That segment of the market

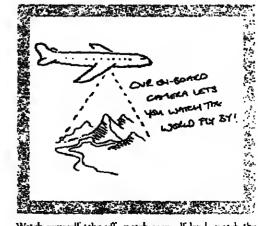
will account for 43 per cent of all aircraft investment. The smallest market will be for planes that hold more than 400 passengers, including Boeing's 747, the world's largest commercial aircraft. About 18 per cent of all investment will be for larger planes.

A few weeks ago, Boeing cancelled work on two larger versions of the 747 capable of carrying more than 500 pas-

sengers.

Boeing said the small size of the market didn't justify spending as much as \$7bn developing

Emirates 777. A window seat wherever you sit.



Watch voorself take-off, watch yourself land, watch the scenery fly by beneath you. From the comfort of your seat on your own personal video,



Emirates THE EINEST IN THE SKY



THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Smith & Nephew bruised by the pound's strength

Persistent rumours that Smith & Nephew is 10 be the target of a takeover bid from rival US healthcare giant Johnson & Johnson has been the only thing to enliven a dull performance over the past few years. Although that heary old chestnut has been revived of late, it was more the confirmation that the pound could hammer profits this year than further denials of bid approaches that hit the shares yesterday. John Rohinson, who is to step up to the chairmanship at the end of 1997 after 15 years in the chief executive's seat, warned the currency hit this year at current rates could be £12m. The price duly sank 7.5p to 183.5p.

The healthcare group, which stretches from Elastoplast to artificial skin, also disappointed with preliminary figures at the bottom end of expectations. Pre-tax profits crept ahead 1 per cent to £179m in the 12 months to December.

Despite its tinge of biotech-nology, many of Smith's products, which include the humble plaster of Paris, sell into very difficult markets, The US, accounting for just over two fifths of sales, remains a running sore. The consolidation of customer groups like hospitals and healthcare management organisations is squeezing margins. Despite some cautious optimism at the half-way stage, average selling prices still slipped 3 per cent in 1996. Mr Robinson compares the medical products market with the two-year price-cutting trauma the pharmaceutical industry went through in the early 1990s and suggests on that basis his business could be enjoying inflation-led price rises by 1998.

That could prove optimistic as long as Europe is such a mixed hag. Smith & Nephew is outpacing the market in Germany, which remains a targel for some of its £500m acquisition firepower, but up to 15 per cent. In the UK sales growth slowed from 12 to 3 per cent as no new products from Smith were ap-proved for prescription use and the group faced competition from parallel imports and Far Eastern competition.

Given that hackground. Smith is doing a decent job. In the US, for instance, overall sales grew 9 per cent against a 3 per cent decline in the market. In wound dressings and

hridge npted for a pretty coo-

no which to pitch its second

attempt nt coming to the market. The 110p-a-share an-

nounced vesterday puts a price

tag of £109m nn the regional

brewer aod pub owner, an

earnings ratin of 11.5 times.

tive discouot to the sector

and market, which reflects understandable caution from

broker Panmure Gordon after

the failed flotation attempt

two years ago when investors

worried about the company's

dependence on one large brew-

ing contract from Courage. The discount was certainly

That represeots an attrac-

the like, the group has soared from number six position to number three in three years on the back of products like its Allevyn dressings. Acufex, the maker of tools for minimal invasive surgery, is looking a good buy, helping to power the 13 per cent underlying growth in endoscopy sales last year.

But currency and the £5m cost of launching the Dermagraft artificial skin product later this year is likely to keep profits flat in 1997, so the forward p/e remains an unexciting 16. The main hope remains Dermagraft, which is on track and could yet surprise. Hold.

Wetherspoon has right mix

The JD Wetherspoon juggernaut keeps motoring, with half-year figures to the end of January showing a 44 per cent rise in sales, pre-tax profits up 46 per cent to £8. Im and earnings per share up 39 per cent at 20.6p.

The shares, some of the most highly rated on the whole market, have fallen back from the highs reached at the end of last year hut at 1140p, down 2.5p yesterday, they have risen about eight-fold since the company floated four years ago.

The market loves growth stocks like Wetherspoon hut is nervous about them and the company is right to stress that what investors think they see is what they actually get.

Dividends per share (peace) 4.62

Ushers offers attractive discount

a hig ecough incective tn

attract subscribers for two-

and-a-half to three-times the

37 millinn shares oo nffer

and o reasonable premium

looks assured when dealings

Ushers in its present form

was put together through a

maoagement huv-in by ex-

Grand Met hrewing executives

in 1991. The hrewery came from Grand Met while 433

pubs were acquired from

Courage. Since then more pubs

have been bought to build an

integrated group with 541 out-

lets and a range of other con-

tracts for both brewing and

packaging. That troublesome Courage contract is now much

less important in group terms.

start oext Mooday.

Five year record

Depreciating pubs to the tune of £50,000 a year each is more prudent than strictly necessary and certainly more prudent than any of its peers.

Importantly that policy means cash flow is much stronger than earnings per share, always a good sign in a fast-growing company. Wetherspoon is one of those shares that always looks expensive but never is as long as

you have faith in the company's ability to continue growing earnings per share in excess of 30 per cent a year. A daunting price/earnings ratio is reined in to more comfortable levels as long as that continues. Fortunately at Wetherspoon there is every reason to believe it will. Wetherspoon's earnings

growth is driven by new open-ings, not like-for-like sales improvements, which at about 3 per cent are nothing spectacular. With only 146 pubs open at the start of the period, however, there is still plenty of scope for growth with the formula of hig, music-free pubs with food all day and smokefree areas seemingly what peo-ple want both outside the London heartland and in quite small towns. If Wetherspoon's pubs work in towns of as little as 15,000, as they seem to, then the company's target of 1,000 pubs is probably conservative.

On the hasis of Merrill Lynch's forecast of £18.5m profit this year and £27.3m next time the shares trade on a prospective price/earnings ra-tio of 24 falling to 19. Buy.

Smith & Nephew: At a glance

Market value: £2 04bn, share price 184.5p

Singer's chief executive is a dancer too

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Here's a fascinating picture of Juhn Hodsoo, chief executive of Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank, participating project which the bank is sponsoring.
The Miracles Project has been set up to encourage young people in London to get involved in the performing arts. Nearly 1,000 young Londoners will perform in a

Londoners will perform in a Royal Gala Performance at Royal Albert Hall on 24 April. The National Heritage Arts Sponsorship Scheme will match pound for pound whatever Singer puts in. Mr Hodson said: "We've

gone for this because it is a different kind of sponsorship. It carries on a tradition at the bank of music and arts patronage, of encouraging new ideas."

One person, however, has reservations about Mr Hodson's involvement. His 18year-old daughter, espying this photo, wailed: "Oh no, Dad, nobody's going to see this, are they?" I don't know - I think Hodson Senior comes over rather well.

City spin doctors are gnashing their teeth at rumours that ever-youthful Tim Trotter, chairman of Ludgate Com-munications, a PR firm, has pocketed £6m from last Friday's sale of the company to American advertising behemoth McCann-Erickson.

Mr Trotter laughs at such a suggestion: "I can't complain, but I can't comment on what I've received or what others have received.' What will make rivals even

more envious is that McCann is planning to rebrand all its global financial and corporate PR under the Ludgate label. Thus Ludgate will expand from its three-legged stool of London, New York and Hong Kong to a possible 110 countries where McCann operates. Other lucky beneficiaries of

McCann's largess include

Sources close to the Barclays-owned investment bank pooh-pooh the idea as "just London office, Kay Break-stone, head of the New York idle gossip. Anyway, he's away skiing." A source closer outfit, and Martin Spurrier in Hong Kong. As for institutional to Mr Robertson said; "He's around London at the moment." Wherever he is, we await his new resting place Ludgate for five years before with baited breath.

If he does go to BZW, he will meet a stream of analysts going in the opposite direc-tion. Chris Grant, a buildings analyst, is the third analyst to. leave BZW since I wrote about the exit of merchant bank specialist Philip Gibbs last week. Mr Grant joined NatWest yesterday, obviously

hitting his bonus. Mark Rubenstein, finan-

undeterred by any £50m holes

Working miracles: John Hodson rehearses with some children at a West London community centre

cials, has gone to Schroders, while Charles Winston, hreweries, has also flown the coop.

The crisis in Albania dominated proceedings at yester-day's launch of NatWest Bank's pensions manifesto, "A Changing Nation". NatWest is launching the

document because it feels that "something must be done" following the pensions mis-selling scandal. No doubt it will be launching a "traded options manifesto" on mispricing soon (sorry, I couldn't

Patrick Minford of Liveroool University, formerly a Government "wise person", told the audience in Bishops-

scheme is "a state-run pyramid scheme" of the type that has gone so horribly wrong in

Professor Minford said there was no prospect of a young person paying Paye ever getting his or her money back on retirement.

... Professor George Yarrow, a privatisation expert from Hertford College, Oxford, then ploughed in, saying that "everyone receiving a small state pension is currently pay ing an Albanian tax of 100 per cent on that pension".

This is because the state pension is actually below income support, said Professor Yarrow. Perhaps they should send a UN force into Whitehall.

Thistle

Hotels

profits

General Accident rules out further UK life acquisitions

Jill Treanor

General Accident yesterday ruled out further life and pensions acquisitions in the UK following last year's purchase of Provident Mutual, saying it would now concentrate on expanding the business organically.

Boh Scott, group chief executive, said the insurance group already derived 25 per cent of its operating profit from this sector but expected this to grow in the years ahead.

"Provident Mutual gave us a strong pension capability... to get strong organic growth," he

"We've got the benefits of scale in our major husinesses. We don't have to do anything." £16m of costs integrating Provident Mutual into its existing op-eration. Net of the charges, Provident chipped in £18m to

David Simpson, an ex-

Observer employee who is chief executive of Ludgate's

investors, CinVen backed

selling out to Granville last

Ludgate, said Mr Trotter, who

July. Both did well out of

concluded: "We've made

two venture capital firms

City bar-room gossip has it

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

signed in a huff last Friday, is

However, he said GA would be

willing to pick up further ac-

which yesterday unveiled a £15m fall in group operating profits to £421m for 1996, re-

vealed that it had incurred

The Perth-based insurer.

quisitions in the US Midwest.

that former chairman of

Simon Robertsoo, who re-

very happy.

group profits. Despite the fall in the annual result, the fourth quarter pro-duced a record result of £1]2m for GA. up from £84m in 1995. Mr Scott said the three months' figures had been boosted by the absence of bad weather during the period and very good results

Bad weather was part of the reason for the dip in profits earlier in the year. "With a record fourth quarter we have maintained an excellent operating profit in 1996, achieved despite severe weather losses." said Mr Scott.

Analysts pointed out that the £30m rise in severe weather losses more than accounted for the £15m profits shortfall for the year, which was less than consensus expectations. The total dividend for last year is being raised 10.5 per ceot to 34.25p, also ahead of forecasts, helping to push the shares 10p higher to 847p yesterday.

The outlook for insurance premium rates continues to be subsidiary, produced excellent mixed. General Accident underwriting results.

echoed recent comments from Commercial Union and Guardian Royal Exchange that there were signs that motor rates were starting to firm.

Mr Scott said: "There are signs that in personal motor, rating increases are coming through. We're putting another increase through in commercial motor." GA sees no signs of rate increases in the home-owner or commercial sectors.

In the US, excluding the effects of bad weather, Mr Scott saw an improving underlying trend in underwriting performance. In Canada, a substantial improvement was achieved and Pilot, its motor insurance

Thistle Hotels disappointed the

City Editor

Tom Stevenson

City despite announcing profits 73 per cent ahead at £60.1m in its first full year figures since coming to the market last October. Its shares closed 8p lower at 198p.
Robert Peel, chief executive,

said: "Key drivers to botel prof-itability - volume and rate have heen growing steadily since April 1993 and improved strongly in 1996." But analysts said the profits

were slightly worse than expected, especially in the light of sparkling oumbers from rival Millennium & Copthorne earlier this week.

As with Millennium & Copthorne, Thistle benefited from the high operating gearing of the hotel industry, converting 69 per cent of extra C. turnover compared with the previous year into profit. Mr Peel said Thistle had had a strong start to the current year with sales, volume and room

In the 12 months to Decem-her, turnover increased to £290.3m despite a heavy refurbishment programme that took rooms out of commission dur-

toons out of commission dur-ing the period.

Earnings per share rose 35
per cent to 10.2p and, as
promised at the time of the
float, a 2p dividend was paid.

Thistle, formerly known as
Mount Charlotte Hotels, said average occupancy increased to 66.7 per cent from 65.7 per cent from 65.7 per cent rose 14 per cent to £55. Thistle is shifting towards husiness travellers and away from discounter to the form of th counted tourist packages. The commercial sector accounted for 38 per cent of room nights sold at Thistle's London hotels but accounted for 52 per cent

of revenue in the capital. The strategy helped lift operating profit 20 per cent to £106.7m. At the time of the public offering. Thistle forecast 1996 operating profit of not less than £100m.

Thistle, 46 per cent owned by New Zealand's Brierley Investments, raised about £250m at flotation to repay debt and invest in its 100 hotels under several brands. The company plans to expand its four-star Thistle brand from 51 properties to more than 70 by the end of 1998 by rebranding hotels. It will also remodel some hotels to increase total capacity by about 2,000 rooms.

in North America Century Inns adds 65 pubs to portfolio

Century Inns. the rapidly expanding pub operator, yester-day announced the purchase of another 65 tenanted pubs from the Pub Partnership Company for £9.1m cash. The deal takes

further extends our portfolio in the North.

lacked investment. Of the pubs being acquired, 55 are a mixture of freehold and Century's estate of pubs to 422. Alistair Arkley, chief execu-

tive of Century, said: "This is the second purchase this year and

"The pubs are similar lo our own estate, although they have

long-leasehold sites.
The pubs were originally acquired by Pub Partnership in 1992 for £13.6m. A valuation carried out in January by Hum-

berts Leisure valued the pubs at

The last published figures showed that the 65 pubs made operating profits of £1.1m for

the year to 29 Fehruary 1996. Mr Arkley believes that the acquired pubs will be earnings-enhancing within the first full year of being under Century's

While we expect to moorporate them quickly, in the about the contract, but to short term additional resources it would run until 2002.

anticipated long-term benefits," he said. Century's shares firmed 0.5p

to 194.5p on the deal.

In addition to the purchase,
Century announced that it had struck a new beer supply con-tract with Carlsberg-Teiley. Century did not go into details about the contract, but did say

Ladbroke closure sparks bid rumours

has performed well so far hut

it faces ao uphill struggle

from hereoo in. A concentra-

tioo oo tenancies makes Ush-

ers unfashionable tna market

in tove with managed estates

and the performance of other

regional brewers suggest the

consolidatino of the industry

has done little for anyone but

the majors. Manns, the ooc

oational hrand, is not strong.

That said, Ushers is plainly well run and after the flotation

will no longer be constrained by high levels of debt. With prof-

its for the year to October pen-

cilled at £15.3m, and with a tax

charge of only 26 per cent, the

shares trade on a prospective p/e ratin of 9. Good value.

Clifford German

Ladhroke yesterday fuelled further speculation that it was ahout to launch a counter takeover hid for Capital Cor-poration, owner of Crockford's casino, by unexpectedly announcing the closure of its property division 48 hours before it is due to retease financial results for 1996.

News of the closure, which involves Ladbroke writing off £52m and selling a substanual chunk of its remaining commercial property portfolio lo Minerva for £25m, also came on the day that London Clubs published its formal offer document for Capital Corporation.

Leisure analysts in the City interpreted Ladbroke's announcement as clearing the decks ahead of a move for Capital. There is also some speculation that Peter George, chief executive of Ladhroke, may instead have his sights tar-

geted on London Clubs itself. London Clubs is offering 47 shares for every 100 in Capital Corporation, which values the target at almost £180m. London

Clubs shares rose 3p to 384p last night which values Capital Corporation shares at 180p. But Capital's shares were unchanged at 202p with investors anticipating a better offer. Crucial to the offer could be

the six shareholders which have over 50 per cent of both companies. London Clubs has comfortably outperformed Capital over the last three years in profits growth and share price performance, and its offer is already 31-times Capital's likely earnings per share in 1996 and 20-times its prospective earnings in 1997. But it is already committed to an expensive refurhishment programme, there is no cash alternative and the way is open for bigger rivals, which could include Rank as well as

Ladbroke, to enter the fray. Greg Freehely, an analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson. helieves, however, that Ladbroke would do better to use its links with Hilton Hotels to invest directly in casinos in Las Vegas, where returns are higher. rather than get involved in a bidding war with London Clubs.

Ladbroke's decision to close

its property division has been on founder Cyril Stein retired in 1994. At its peak in 1993 the property portfolio was worth £45m. It had been run down to £373nt by the end of 1995 and the rump is now valued at less than £70m.

The property division will be treated as a discontinued activity in the 1996 accounts. After property dealing losses of £5.6m its operating profit was £500,000.

Ten properties are being sold to Minerva at a 27 per cent discount to book value. Only £15m is payable on completion, the halance will be staggered over the next five years. It is Minerva's first acquisition since it was floated last November. Ladbroke also confirmed the sale of a large office building in Boston, Massachusetts to HN Gorin for \$23m.

The closure of the property division is accompanied by ex-ceptional costs of £52.3m mainly to cover losses on the disposals and to write down the remaining portfolio to a realistic



Peter George: Looking to buy or to out-bid London Clubs? (F) - Final (I) - Interior (t) - current figs 12 miles: previous 10 miles

				1.5
	Compar	ıy Resu	lts	
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EP\$	Dividend .
Applied Distribution (F)	57.0m (42.7m)	0.28m (5.07m)	0.3p (10.4p)	1.5p (4.5p)
CALA (I)	44.2m (42.5m)	2.71m (2.11m)	4.21p (3.28p)	1.3p (1.2p)
Casadiau Pizza (F)	22.8m (14.2m)	2.13m (1.41m)	8.7p (5.9p)	2.6p (4.8p)
Chieftsin Group (F)	19.0m (R.66m)	0.68m (-0.54m)	7.2p (-6.23p)	3p (1p)
CRH (I)	lr2.43bs (lr1.91bs)	ir193m (ir160m)	40.59p (35.55p)	10.2p (9.1p)
Darby Group (†)	20.5m (15.6m)	2.10m (0.95m)	7.54p (5.33p)	2.2p (Zp)·
EFT Group (F)	- (-) .	5.84m (5.1m)	9.83p (8.43p)	26p (2.1p)
Epodo Group (F)	72.4m (69.2m)	5.23m (5.06m)	15.5p (15.5pj	9p (8.9p)
General Accident (F)	- I-)	720m (559m)	103.9p (8Z.8p)	34.25p (31p)
Holiday Chemical (F)	185m (159m)	15.5m 12.1m)	10.8p (7.2p)	5.25¢ (5¢)
tedestrial Control (1)	44.8m (32.3m)	3.02m (2,12m)	3.9p (3.5p)	1.5p (1.5p)
Jamileo Lloyd Thompson (I) 24.7m (23.1m)	10.6m (10.4m)	8.37p (8.34p)	6.25p (3p)
JIS Group (F)	178m (164m)	27.5m (-49.6m)	13.50 (-49.60)	8.5p (7.5p).
Kerry Group (F)	1/1 23m (h1.20m)	151.2m (h13.2m	26.9p (23.3p)	3.83¢ (-)
S Lytes (I)	10.2m (7.99m)	0.18m (-0.50m)	2.24p (-6.86p)	0.75p (all)
A&J Machiew (I)	10.9m (10.0m)	5.85m (5.05m)	4.23p (8.72p)	8.3540 (3.2370)
Pendragon (F)	609m (509m)	12.6m (11.3m)	21.7p (19.7p)	6.6p (6p)
Erwest Green Prins (I)	3.53m (3.22m)	0.31m (-0.58m)	2.50 (-6.30)	2p (nii)
Sercs (F)	397m (323m)	19.2m (15.2m)	18.8p (15p)	5.5p (4.7p)
Southern Newspapers(i)	47 3m (42.8m)	8.17m (5.83m)	29.27p (17.15p)	
Smith & Hephen (F)	1.97bn (989m)	179m (177m) .	10.92p (10.29p)	Sp (5.65p)
Thirtle Hotels (F)	290m (266m)	-27.7m (34.8m)	-7.24p (7.56p)	
JD Wetherspoon (1)	65.0m (45.2m)	B 11ml (5.55m)	20.6p (14.8p)	
Wyovale Garden Centre (F)	54.7m (45.0m)	8.03cr (6.57m)		6.12p (5.32p)
/D . Book (D . leterin	***			4 141

حكذا من الأصل

Luxembourg-based Societe emerge with the group's annual Europeenne des Satellites, the company that controls the Astra satellite system used to beam BSkyB programmes into this country, is back on.

Analysis reckon a stock market listing for SES would bring a big cash bonanza for 6 per cent shareholder Pearson, next step. the media and leisure group

under new management. SES, in which the Luxembourg government has a 20 per cent stake, could fetch anywhere between £2bn and £3bn, valuing Pearson's investment at up to £180m. That is double the amount some brokers have punched into their spreadsheets and could add up to 30p to their sum-of-the-parts cal-

Speculation is growing that the middle of a strategic review, the long-awaited flotation of more details of which could

results due on 17 March. The deck-clearing exercise has already begun. Last month Pearson sold its 10 per cent stake in TVB, the Hong Kong television broadcasler, for £111m. Realising the SES investment would be an obvious

An SES spokeswoman confirmed the company intended to float at some stage but said there was no fixed timetable. Pearson's shares have recovered since last month's dis-

covery of a £100m accounting fraud at its Penguin books subsidiary in the US. They touched a record 792.5p in early trade yesterday before slipping back to close 3.5p adrift at 775p after the American



MARKET REPORT

PATRICK TOOHER

er drives division, and Danfoss

MFL whose shares collapsed

40.5p to 156.5p after the fur-

niture retailer warned on a sud-

den slowdown in like-for-like

sales. Analysis cut back their

profit forecasts, with Merrill

Lynch reducing its 1997 esti-

mates by £15m to £70m and by

£25m to £90m for 1998. MFT's

competitors suffered fram the

Drives of Denmark.

chains while not extending the Brook Hansen, part of its powdiscounts to independent re-

Pearson's weaker tone contrasted with the firm trend among most other blue chips. The FTSE 100 ended 50.6 points better at a new closing high of 4357.7 and L4 points shy of the session's best level.

Investors remain confident that interest rates will not rise ahead of the general election. while Wall Street continues to

defy gravity.

BTR, reporting finals tomorrow, topped the list of rill Lynch while ABN Amro Hoare Govert and Soc Gen were also positive.

Commercial Union paused for breath, unchanged at 721p but plenty of buying interest was noted amid the 3.56 million turnover. Rumours continued to circulate that a European insurer, possibly Allianz of Germany, might be The day's main casualty was

taking a closer look. Smith & Nephew was the weakest blue chip, down 6.75p at 184.25p, as concerns about US competitive pressures and the strong pound overshad-owed results. Also unloved was Ladbroke, reporting finals on Thursday, on sell advice from ABN Amro Hoare Govett and Lehman Brothers. That sent the shares 2p lower in 227p.

fall-out, notably DFS, off 14.5p Emap's dreadful run continued, the shares slumping annther 10.5p to 739p as Credit

SES flotation could bring a cash bonanza to Pearson buyers returned to paper maker David S Smith, up 15.5p at 261 5p and Pace Micro Tech-

nology. 19p firmer at 113.5p. Linx Printing Technologies was in demand, rising 19p to 153.5p on results way ahead of analysis expectations. Investors have had a roller-coast-er ride since the shares were floated in 1993, the price gyrating between 218p and 58p.

Holliday Chemical has also given investors palpitations during its four-year life as a public company, but the shares added 8p to 134p after the speciality chemicals group posted marginally better 1996 results.

One company in put its shareholders out of their misery was Tomorrow's Leisure, which accepted a £16.2m offer from property group Wiggins for the 75 per cent of shares it does not already own. The

Independent Newspapers is about to be taken over refuse to die down. One story doing the rounds is that Newspaper Publishing, owners of The Independent, is lining up a 175p a share bid after failing to land Westminster Press, another regional newspaper publisher, last year. Sources

Taking Stock

at the Mirror Group, which owns 46 per cent of Newspaper Publishing, continue in play down the speculation. Both Midland and the Mirror report results next week Midland's shares edged 2.5p higher to 145p.

Shares in Waterfall Holdings. floated last year at 45p. hit a new high of \$4.5p, up 4.5p. In its biggest deal so far, Waterfall is paying Regent Inns £4.85m for 12 snooker clubs in the Midlands and the

Among insurers. General Accident's results lifted the North of England, increasing best blue-chip performers, gaining 13p to 255.5p in re-Lyonnais moved from buy in shares, worth more than 100p shares 10.5p to 847.5p. SBC Warburg urged clients to add to their huldings, as did Merthe number of outlets to 36. culations, pushing Pearson's es-Booksellers Association rebold. Two directors bought in 1989, rose 3p to 9.25p. timated break-up value portedly alleged that Penguin USA unfairly granted dissmall lots of shares at prices besponse in news it had formed towards 1000p. Marjorie Scardino, Peara strategic alliance between counts to large bookstore Prices are in stering except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 3 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional terms.

Other details: r Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex all u Unisted Securities Market a Suspendad price of the 985 by Line of a Fleat-time 00 Sterling Rotes 04 985 FTSE 100 - Real-time 01 Sulfon Report 05 987 LIK Stock Market Report 02 Wall St Report 20 988 UK Company Nows 02 Wall St Report 20 989 Foreign Exchange 03 Tokyo Market 21 Anyone with a tone-dist telephone can use this service. For 8 detailed description independent index including its portrolo facility, phone 0891 123.
For essentiance, call our helpline 0771 873 4378 (500cm - 500pm). 730000 Hunson 730000 Grand Mes. FTSE 100 Index hour by hour HOW CAN

I MAKE the most of my savings and investments?

The To Your Money

The To Your M Yen Siz's Burneh Cest
901 Siz's Burneh Cest
903 Burneh Cest
903 Siz's Boot
353 Siz's Most thom
75 135 Coolered
105 Size Size
105 Size Size
105 Size Size
105 HOW CAN

· 712

MGOR

in philippe is

M. Kill

Foreign Exchange Rates 104.80 301.3 694.7 1947.5 574.6 294.0 294. 1 mosth 3 months
10-8 27-94
610-560 170-0162
207-195
232-211 575-641
23-42 71-94
23-42 71-94
23-42 71-94
23-42 71-94
23-42 71-94
23-42 71-94
23-42 71-94
23-42 71-94
23-42 71-94
23-42 71-94
23-42 71-94
23-42 71-94
23-42 71-94
23-42 71-94
23-42 71-94
23-42 71-94
24 71-94
24 71-94
24 71-94
25-33 71-95
26 0-0
26 0-0 Carrecta Germany France Italy Japan ECU Belgium Denmark Notherlands Instend Norway Sweden Switzesland Autorities Hong Kong Malayaila Now Zastand Saud Arabia Saud Arabia Singapore 997.12 71.267 0.5143 20.527 3.8144 1.1246 0.3734 4.0727 84 6205 4.4733 0.8677 0.7420 4.5905 1.4479 0.6310 0.8344 10713067783510841010278944 07454248927451747 1741 0 d 2439 9 271 -293 1975 1983 2700 7914 227 9754 222 2008 222 2008 222 2008 222 2008 222 2007 028 2007 028 2007 028 2008 013 200 OTHER SPOT RATES 130.055 0.6228 64.8332 42.6979 277.574 5.868 8210.47 7.1916 44.5467 5.9416 1324 1348 98 81 1114 49 82 55,00 **Tourist Rates** 11703.877 31406.086 Interest Rates 70 97 494 5 479 5 103 1 35 10 105 5 150 4 405 5 646 5 50 26 1000 00 5 60 2004 1472 57.60 54.46 8.00% **Bond Yields** 70 yr ylaid 60% 5.44 1.35% 6.91 7.75% 7.47 6.25% 5.63 6.50% 6.79 5.50% 5.97 91.81 1.76 85.61 7.76 94.69 6.35 407.6 1.36 67.64 1.36 40.76 0.21 21.56 0.21 Money Market Rates 299 7 955 4 122 1 70 99 129 0 3042 405 2 61 07 6 167 20 0 17 24 04:5:38 15 76 33:50 2:00 34:58 2:06 499:20 586.1 0.00 670.4 6.00 1406.8 2.9 187.8 0.66 199.0 0.66 199.0 0.66 199.0 0.66 111.2 0.00 177.7 0.00 177.7 0.00 177.7 0.00 180.3 1.19 280.3 1.19 280.3 1.19 280.3 1.64 80.00 1.64 "Information professionals rank **Liffe Financial Futures** Financial Times Information as the most important UK business information provider" 120.1 4.57 136.1 2.31 97.25 6.34 107.34 97.94 125.81 127.99 122.948 139.29 139.29 104.48 88.14 118.26 105.22 175.00 165.2 175.0 165.2 175.0 165.2 175.0 165.2 175.0 165.2 175.0 165.2 175.0 1 1263.0 1.46 219.6 0.00 162.3 0.00 60.69 5.48 174.2 0 10 127.7 4.62 126.7 1.16 92.88 2.22 3 Main Eurobys 86 60 0.00 07.85 2.19 Financial Times Information provides online information from 3 Mth ECU over 5,000 business sources comprising 43 million documents, as well as a database of 3.5 million securities and fundamental data Liffe FTSE Index Option on quoted companies. 1名6 473 6 188 1 For free samples of our services, visit our website: http://www.info.ft.com **Commodities** FINANCIAL TIMES 1578年 1578 359/370 222/229 54/94 52/58 369/402 239/249 365/361 225/238 1871 1 204 1971 1 204 1971 1 204 1971 1 204 1971 1 204 1971 1 204 1971 1 204 1971 1 204 1971 1 204 1971 1 204 1971 1 204 1971 1 204 1971 1 204 1971 1 204 1971 1 204 1971 1 204 1971 1 204 1971 1 204 5/torne 307 40 305,69 302,20 1561 THE SECOND SECON 5.30pm 19.12 18.70 18.63 IPE 5.30y Apr 19. May 18. Jun 18. Vot 3722A 112.4 5 Z SE 34.3 Z SA 31.3 S 43.5 S 43.5 S 52.3 S 53.5 Z 12.3 Z +0.01 215.26 +1.10 215.29 -0.65 65.86 +2.02 168.79 -0.53 191.03 -0.41 463.34 100 Largest Insurance Funds ASSESSED AND CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PR 235 547 58 794 807 00 UNIT TRUST GUIDE

FINSTAT - instant PC access to Financial Times Statistical data.

on +44 171-825-8430 or email: leeanne.gilliar@ft.com

For further information, call Leeanne Gilliar at FT Information

It's Otto

crowned

the king

showman

Genevieve Murphy

looks at the horse

who has become

an equestrian hero

Why not do a Dolly with Dancing Brave?

A great deal has happened in eventually know the position of the outside world since the every comma and full stop. gentlefolk of Britain first start- This will give them the power ed to refine the thoroughbred racehorse more than 300 years ago. Waterioo, for example, the Industrial Revolution, two world wars, votes for women and men on the moon, although, admittedly, some or all of this may be news to the more sheltered members of the

breeding community.
Science, meanwhile, has produced Darwinism, genetics and, only last week, the announcement of the first clone of an adult mammal. Yet the methods employed on stud farms have barely changed since the time of the Darley Arabian and

And why should they? The bringing together of stallion and mare is not a process which involves a great deal of coercion, and those in charge of the op-eration would rightly argue that as a general rule, nature is best left to get on with things. Whether that belief will survive much beyond the millenium, however, must now be in serious doubt, as advances on several scientific froms hold out the promise - some might say threat - of a revolution in both

racing and breeding.
The Animal Health Trust in Newmarket, for instance, is part of a worldwide project to map the equine genome, which effectively means that, in the big instruction book of how to make a horse, researchers may

2.40 True Fortune (nb)

3.10 Indian Jockey

to correct its "spelling mistakes", the genetic abnormalities which cause inherited diseases, while breeders and potential owners might also take a close interest in any genes, or more probably combinations of genes, which appear to confer an advantage on the track.

At present, the research is concentrating on health issues rather than those which directly influence racing performance, but as Ernie Bailey, a professor at the University of Genome Project's international co-ordinator, points out, alboth owners and breeders.

Many horses which turn out to be useless may do so be- already know, and allow them cause they develop a health to make decisions with a little problem with a genetic component," Bailey says. "The

Greg Wood examines the implications for the horseracing and breeding industries of the successful cloning of a sheep

shame for the breeders and ley and his colleagues around ented but long-since golded owners is when there is a horse the world is not the sort of thing that wants to run, that has athletic ability, but doesn't do it because of a health limitation, that's why the emphasis for our research is on health rather

than performance per se.
"Down the line, a map could concervably be used for identifying traits related to performance, but there's probably a complex set of genes which are doing it, and some of them may Kentucky and the Equine be operating in opposition to one another. There might be five different ways to make a ready there are implications for stayer, and six to make a sprinter. Mapping may simply rein-force things which the breeders more information. The painstaking work of Bai-

which makes the beadlines. The arrival of Dolly the cloned sheep, by contrast, took even many specialists in the field by surprise, and now that the enormous technical obstacles to cloning an adult mammal have been overcome in one species. there can be little doubt that the technique could also work with borses. Indeed, financial incentives are now the driving force behind many advances, and the situation in which a slow

ground for further research. The possibilities are obvious, if fanciful. A small army of Dancing Braves or Lammarras or the chance to reproduce tal-

horse can be worth £400 and a

Derby winner £15m would

seem to offer unusually fertile

steeplechasers, even a race pitting all the surviving Derhy winners against each other as three-year-olds. In practice, however, there are several solid reasons why such scenarios remain a distant prospect, not least the fact that, as Boh Me-Creery of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association pointed out yesterday. "I suspect that you would be in very deep water legally if you were racing an animal that was a clone."

McCreety is the chairman of a TBA committee which is investigating the use of artificial insemination in thoroughbred breeding, which is currently banned by international agreement between the major racing nations. Scientific advance afways has to be looked at ob-

ing forward to next week now.

work at the track, but his train-

er, Michael Hourigan, scrapped

plans when he saw the state of

William Hill were impressed

2 elear favourite from 11-2.

by Imperial Call to cut him to

Ladbrokes, however, leave him

unchanged at 5-1 and report

the ground.

Dorans Pride was also due to

jectively," he says, "and the effects they might have considered. We're doing exactly that with Al, which is a long way ahead of cloning, but though it's a different subject, I suspect it is a rather similar discussion. Al happens already with Arab horses, there are Arab stallions in Cambridgeshire which are covering mares in California, but there could be very serious financial implications if it was allowed ad lib. There are difficulties over the number of mares which could be covered. depreciation and so on. It's a highly emotive subject.

A lifting of the ban on Al

would, among other things, permit top stallions such as Sadler's Wells to perform procreative feats which might otherwise turn him prematurely grey. And it would also, many believe, inevitably open the

support for Cyborgo, the mount of Charlie Swan. They have cut him to 16-1 (from 20-1).

erbys director with responsibility for the stud book, said vesterday. "I suspect that if the han was lifted, you would also be lifting it on other forms of artificial breeding such as embryo transfer, and what the advent of the cloning of the sheep will do is make people think in a wider sphere things. You can either take a fer-

tilised egg from one animal and put it in another so that the recipient carries on gestating goine normally, or give an animal an injection so that it superovulates and produces more than one egg, then you llush them out and implant one in each of the recipients. At present the techniques are better in cattle than horses, but once door to other ground-breaking technology is produced, it's always going to improve, just as cloning would."

Anderson believes that "ulnmately, the industry has to decide whether it wants to go with that particular flow or control the flow a bit. All these things have a definite purpose when you want the same product, but some people plain like variety. and racing thrives on variety. All these things have to he thrown into the melting pot before you decide whether you want cloning or not." Britain's racehorse breeders, it seems.

"Embryo transfer means two

"For Al you can realistical-

ly read artificial breeding.

Hamish Anderson, the Weath

If you want a concise summing-up of It's Otto's talents you need look no further than Geoff Billington, who has ridden the 11-year-old show jumping gelding for the past five years. There's nothing Otto can't jump; he's a once in a life-time horse." Billington said. I'll never ride another like

> While Mary King was in London vesterday to collect the Spiller's Award as leading equestrian personality of the year, it's Oun was on his Continental travels, uniware that he had been nominated as leading horse. Both horse and human titles were decided on votes cast by readers of Horse and Rider and Pont magazines, for whom Otto has become a favourite equine pin-up since finishing sixth (and best of the British) at the Olympic Games last

> One has no doubts about his star status. "He's quite highlystrung, but he's also very sensible and intelligent." Billington said. "The big-time atmosphere always works in his favour, he knows he's a superstar so he rises to the occasion."

Though he loves people. One can be distinctly bolshie towards horses - as Jenny Ellis. a veterinary nurse who became his groom at the start of the year, has discovered. "He'd lick you to death but you have to watch him with other horses." she said. "It's only because he wants to be king, he's that sort of person.

Ellis is now both long-discance lorry driver and groom to It's One and Nike on their current tour of five Continental shows: Bologna, Paris, Moorsele, Dortmund and Zurich, She is sometimes daunted by thoughts of driving such precious cargo and she is al-

ready devoted to her charges. Oito (her special (avourite) travels well and he settles into temporary stabling like an old pro. In Paris last weekend. Ellis had wondered whether he would be apset when the rubbish tip close to his stable was being emptied, but he appeared

to find the performance quite enthralling. Watching the equiv-alent of the Household Cavalry elatier past was another riveting diversion in Paris. Having finished third in the Volvo World Cup qualifiers at both Bologna and Paris on It's Otto. Billington has now caroed his place for the World Cup final which takes place from 30 April to 4 May in Gothenburg. Barring injury, he and Otto will also be automatic choices for the British team that contests the European Champi-

onships in Mannheim from 27 to 31 August.
Such an ambitious itinerary could only be dreamt about when Billington began riding Gerard Lever's Dutch-hred gelding. Even a year ago, when everyone was wondering who would he the rider to join the Whitaker brothers and Nick Skelton at the Olympics, there could be no automatic as-

sumption of team selection. It was not until last year, when It's Otto's earnings reached £250,000 in prizemoney, that the gelding established himself as just about the best show jumper in Britain. The horse who wants to be king had achieved his goal.

HALL SETHENCE HIS BOTH.

SPILLERS AWARDS: Equestrian Personality of the Year: It king, Horse of the Year: It's Otto, Spillers Dismond award: Bruish Paralympe ream. Scholmships: 8 Pails is show jumping. I. Beskett Idressage, J Gobans thorse

TODAY'S NUMBER

105

The countries who have so far entered the table tennis World Championships, in Manchester in April and Mav. This will make it the largest entry for a sporting event in this country, including the 1948 Olympic Games.

* THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES REGUS 0.7 982 **9.3** WOLVERHAMPTON.

Confidence restored as Imperial Call impresses

After a disappointing workout with his big-race jockey, Conor at Clonnel last week, Imperi-O'Dwyer, in the saddle. al Call was back on a racecourse. yesterday and his attempt at completing successive victories in the Cheltenham Gold Cup

was back on track too. The horse's connections declared themselves delighted after Ireland's leading chaser, trained by Fergie Sutherland, it and it wouldn't be a probler tuned up at Trainer racecourse if it was similar to last year."

-HYPERION

GOUNG: Soft (Good to Soft in places).

Left-leard, undothing course; rm-in 325yds.

Course im SS of Wrexham ar join of A525 & B6069. Bus from Wrexham rail station.

ADMISSION: Paddock S9; Course S4 (under-16s tree all enclosures). CAR PARK: Free.

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNINEES: M Pipe - 21 winners from 15 runners gives a success ratio of 27.6% and a profit to a 5.1 keed stake of 58.47; D Nichologii - 14 winners, 43 runners, 38.3%; + 52.81; N Twiston-Davise - 13 winners, 65 runners, 20.8%, 411.55; Mackie - 9 winners, 55 runners, 77.3%, + 44.37.

If LEADING JOCKEYS: E Damwoody - 27 wiss, 81 cides, 38.3%, 238.83; A Magnire - 16 wins, 73 rides, 21.9%, 50.53; D Bridgender - 15 wins, 70 rides, 21.4%, +52.787; C. Lleyethyn - 10 wins, 51 rides, 19.6%, +44.94.

BLINKERSD FIRST TIME: El Sarkador, (2.40), King Rut (2.40), Burnetwood Melody (4.10); Planse Roy (190red, 4.30).

[4.[0]; Plancy Boy (visored, 4.10).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: Cope Courage (2.40) won at Luffow on Thoractey, Carlboo Job (4.10) was at Emiliagion on Thoractey, LONG-DESTANCE EQUINNERS:
Callern Star (4.10) has been sent 180 miles by R Amer from Droop, Dotted.

3.40 King Rat. 4.10 Carthoo Gold

4.40 Lough Tully

Ann Sutherland, the trainer's wife, said: "He went very well and both trainer and jockey are delighted. We think we've got

him right now and are quietly confident that he can do it again. We would prefer soft ground but are unlikely to get it and it wouldn't be a problem

O'Dwyer said: "The ground from Clonmel. I'm really lookwas desperate but I was very

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Darakshan (Bangor 2.10) NB: Auntie Alice (Catterick 4.00)

bappy with him today. He looked and felt a different horse

1998: Creat Norg 4 to 8 of Hardes 92 to Barbano 17 on FORM GRIDE.

HALLMAR TARSI is coming to hand and only lest Thursday ran his best more in a unife when auror-up to allellow Misster in a Hunthgridon select. Clear by the fourth fight, he legst on well when trackled or the flat to finish just over a length shead of useful yorksock Battle-stap Bruce and might not be an easily caught on the course, where horses are constructed on the burnt, Rassistance has taken a wrang turning somewhere since starting the season with a fourth behind Mytion's Choice to Chopstow in October, He was a Cheberhilm wither lest season and really cognit to be unbeatable in this low grade at the weights, but his attainer was unable to account for a poor show here in November and, as he hasn't done much better since, is probably best watched for the present. Keight in Side was returning after 28 months off when a staying-on fifth in that Chepstow race, a head behind Ramsders, The fact that he hasn't been out since might not the a problem, but it's difficult to make a base for him as he meats Remarkers on 23th worse terms, king flat takes a drop in class. He run when unplaced stong with Lastiphing Buccannear and Kings Valion on tast ground at Market Kenter is the Base Hower on his second to authorquent winter With Stor in a select over the course and distance of the end of Movember. He has been unming on the Fast since then, El Barbadow did caught when fourth performed body Magns in a Miscentian clatiner on his debut to suggest them is a nice of this nature, waiting for him.

6 SPECOS ASSEML WARRING CD, Ed Waterman, Reprodes and Denni T Wol 6 10 3 A Manuary (3) S 7 ACCESS PLASSY BOY (AS) (The Subsector Dengrified Proventials A Burke 8 10 0 ... Challey 8 3240.65 (millionis Story (AS) (The Subsector Dengrified Proventials A Burke 8 10 0 ... Challey 8 3240.65 (millionis Story (AS) (Dopped) N Wester 11 10 0 ... R Farmed 10 DOM-SE (WHYN), RNY (ZB) (Max 3 Max 10 Max 10

Passig Boy, 15-1. Capters Say, 20-1, resum seressay, over the window, and the series Say 1986. Bendown Bit 7 11 8 D Belgenter 5-1, 04 Pay 14 cm.

FORM GUIDE

Intel point-to-point winner Gazethrom set a searching peak until caught in the last strides by Druid's Brook at Towcester (Intel and their led smart pair Simply Deshing and Dudge for a long way over two and a half miles at Haydook. This extended three miles should such farm more and he'll stoon have a lot of these in trouble, then again that may only set it up for CAMBIOL 6001D. This eight-year-old has come book well either instang two seasons, it stanted a tiple bit hestardly when he was only third of the four to finish behind Showmen, but it's been pain selling in two mass at humington strops. Camboo Gold had plenty in hand there last Thursday, and even though he's up atmost a stone on that first wit, that's soil some way below what he was roted in his hunting days. Ocean Leader came back after missing 1994-65 to not be promising races over tenos last term and this season started on the right note with a confurtable enough when thoughter had time and he been bundled and his chance at the best, though there is not not a moderate performance at Uttoester had time and he them bundled and his cleance of Market Resent. He's in with a chance at he best, though there is not not cast. California Storic Stoudt the more of home dwar this trip than 2 miles of CAPBOO GOLD.

4.40 SANDY LANE NOVICE HANDICAP HUPDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f Penetty Value £2,442

211123 ORDOR BOR C539 BM R Intratof M Mesigne 8 11 12.

211123 ORDOR BOR C539 BM R Intratof M Mesigne 8 11 12.

211124 DRING BOR C539 BM R Intratof M Mesigne 8 11 12.

211223 DRIAM (7) E5 Dies P 8 Bourne M Pape 4 10 12.

2112223 DRIAM (7) E5 Dies P 8 Bourne M Pape 4 10 12.

211223 DRIAM (7) E5 Dies P 8 Bourne M Pape 4 10 12.

211223 DRIAM (7) E5 Dies P 8 Bourne M Pape 4 10 12.

211223 DRIAM (7) E5 Dies P 8 Bourne M Pape 4 10 12.

211223 DRIAM (7) E5 Dies P 8 Bourne M Pape 4 10 12.

211223 DRIAM (7) E5 Dies P 8 Bourne M Pape 4 10 12.

211223 DRIAM (7) E5 Dies P 8 Bourne M Pape 4 10 12.

211223 DRIAM (7) E5 Dies P 8 Bourne M Pape 4 10 12.

211223 DRIAM (7) E5 Dies P 8 Bourne M Pape 5 10 11.

211223 DRIAM (7) E5 Dies P 8 Bourne M W William P 9 10 7.

211223 DRIAM (7) E5 DIES P 8 DIES P 8

8 OP BACKHARDER (22) Seater Merceth R Prilips 5 11 2	HYPERION 1.55 Noir Esprit 2.25 Cumbrian Maestr 3.00 Boulevard Bay 3.30 KINGS SERMOI (nap) 4.00 First in The Field 4.30 Robert Lee 5.00 Easby Blue
19 55 ASALINACIAL (25) Chylon Bejley Parmestry Ltd D McCan 4 1D 3	GOING: Good to Sob. Lest-hand course, unclusting and sharp. Course is NW of from an AG130, ADMISSION: Cub 511; To usuals 57; Course 52.74, CAR PARE: Beserved 52, risk Free Chapter 52.79.

BLINEFEED FIRST TIME: Coose Francia, Printitive Beart (1.55).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None,
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Mobile Memorager (3.00) & High 1.55 ASKEW DESIGN AND PRINT SELLING HUR-DLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m

- 12 decigned -BETTRICE 5-2 Noir Esprit, 4-1 Rudmore Broady, 5-1 Marchine, 8-1 Linco.

	Pythelitine Heart, 18-1 Emerald Sea, Flasco, 15-1 others
	225 BEAUFORD PLC NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added Zm
1	1 56-0611 LAST TRY (TT) (CD) B Rormet 6 12 0 E Colore (F
ļ	2 ADDSO ALLERS (305)) Goldene 3 11 0
	3 (7) HUNTING SLAVE (46) C Grant 5 11 0 P News
	4 0.05 MILDESPIG NOVS (20) P CALEY 5 11 0
	5 O PRIMISE HE (FRO 112) T Into 7 11 D
	6 OS NOMALDRIEK (12) V Thompson 5 21 0 Mr M Thompson
	7 UNDAMATERSCURATIVA M BODY 5 11 0 Pobok
	8 21 CLIMBRIAN MAESTRO (B) (CD) T Ensurby 4 10 13 R Contact
	9 000 PENNY PEPPERMINT COT R Barr 5 10 9
	10 04000 THARLADE (333) F MARTY 9 10 9
	11 O DYERSMAN (SS) 3 FGSCesatt 4 10 6
	12 D RESPECTIVE (68)) Moore 4 10 6
	13 QUEEN'S COUNTS, Mrs. M Military 4 10 2
	BETTING 4-5 Cumbrise Mostro, 8-1 Last Try, 7-1 Oversman, 8-1 Us
	description of the State Technique 20-1 offices

3.00 PYTCHLEY ECHO NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 3m 1f 110yds

him to 16-1 (ITI Chettenham Gold Cup Impensi Call, 5-1 Coo Prote, 6-1 Darnof, 11-1 & The Dray Monis, 12- 5-1 Impensi Call, Dors 6-1 Darnola, 8-1 Dubris & The Gray Monis, 14- 9-2 Impensi Call, 11-2 rars Prote, 7-1 Darnol, Man & The Gray, Lohn 5-1 Coome NA & Impe 1, 6-1 Dorans Prote, 7- Man, 10-1 The Gray N	113 Marchi Totar 9-2 me Hd, 11-2 Dorans Dubin Riper, One Mari 1 chers, Ludbrolkesin s Pride 6 Coome Hdi Fiyer, 10-1 One Man 4 chrers, William Hills Coome Hd, 13-2 Do- 10-1 Dubin Fiyer, One , 22-1 others: Coreal end Ced, 13-2 Donot Dubin Riper, 5-1 One	some people plain like variety, and racing thrives oo variety. All these things have to be thrown into the melting pot before you decide whether you want cloning or not." Britain's racehorse breeders, it seems, will be doing things their way for a little while yet.
ibrian Maestro INGS SERMON d 4.30 Roberty	1 243231 BOLD AD 2 52490 KING OF: 3 06361F KINGS SE 4 F23122 TICO GOL 5 PSLASS ELLOTTS 6 06020 RATHFAR	T FLEMING NOVICE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,075 3m 1f 11.0yds COUNT (19) G M Micros 7 11 10

- 9 decisind - African et al. 19 decision - 19 decisind - African et al. 19 decision - 19 decisio

POLOGO TRACHA'S HOPE BO E Care 8 10 0.

4.00 CONISTON HALL RESTAURANT HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,575 added 2m 3f FRYIND SAFFELLINE (20) (CD BIT) MIS J Brown 6 11 0 ... Miss P

See	te/Ma, 8-1	Austic Alice, 20-1 Throizi, 14-1 others
2	1.30	PETER WALX MEMORIAL TROPHY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 3f
1	D-23P12	ROBERTY LEA (S) (C) (BF) Mrs M Revers; 9 11 9 F Novem
2	5-DF6PQ	DISTRIBRY HELL (11) V Thomason 9 11 ? Mr M Thumpson
3	OP-O	FORT ZEDDAAN (76) Mrs S Smah 7 11 ? R Wildeson (7)
4	(CUPIOO	19521 MOOD (22) 7 George 7 11 2
5	PHYTHUS	MOST RICH (11) 8 Dison 9 11 ? T Reed V
6		DAVILANDS BILLY W/S M Featery B 11 2
7	54-0F44	TAPATCH (15) M W Esserby 9 11 2 P Carberry

8 31 MORREY WENCH (SOR) has a Countried of 10 11... & Storey

- 8 declared
BETTINE 5-4 Roberty Los, 3-1 Topatch, 5-1 Opitimes BBD, 8-1 Morkey

nch, 12-1	High Mood, 18-1 Port Zeoman, 20-1 owers
00.	LANE, CLARK & PEACOCK OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,550 added 2m
	BOSTON BONBER R Woodhouse 5 11 2 P Carberry
5	EASRY BLUE (22) S hettered 5 11 2 P Noven
RD4	EASTCLETE (25) W McKeown 5 11 2
	CORNE PREMITATE I Hetherton 6 11 2 A Dobber
	ROYAL CHIP Mes M Morgan 5 11 2 N Horrocks (7)
	STANMEN HALL Was S WHENTSON 5 11 2 J Supple
	WHENCEARE LASS F Kirby 5 10 17
	The state of the s

34 PERFECT POPPY (11k) J Farstone 3 81...... D Harrison 1

- 9 declared -DETING: 5-4 Swerd Arcs, 5-2 Perfect Poppy, 6-1 Vertice Beach, 6-1 Only Josk, 12-1 Little Acons, 14-1 Krosne, 25-1 others

3.20 CYCLONE HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000

-8 Getisped
-8 Getisped
Memmer weight is 10b True hardrap weight Mutanadeth 7st 90.

SETTING: 3-1 Don Schastien, 9-2 Oce-M-K, 5-1 Fool Settalion, Glohetro

6-1 Milleys, Mutahadeth, 10-1 Othors

added 3YO 1m 100yds

1.50 Bold Habit 2.20 Marjorle Rose 2.50 Per-fect Poppy 3.20 Don Sebastian 3.50 Nikita's Star 4.20 Northern Fan 4.50 Needle Match

GOING: Nambrd STALLS: Iresde. DRAW ADVANTAGE: (ligh from 67 to 1m 4f.

SUNKERED FIRST TIME: Steel 'Em (150); North Arthr (1)-

Schrein, Efficacions (4.27).
WINNERS IN LAST SIXEN DATS: Little floor & Mustang (2.20)
WINNERS IN LAST SIXEN DATS: Little floor & Mustang (2.20)
WINNERS IN LAST SIXEN DATS: Little floor & Mustang (2.20)
WINNERS IN LAST SIXEN DATS: Little floor & Mustang (2.20)
LONG-DISTANCE BUINNESS: Another Nightness 11.50), Naissand (2.20) & Bons (2.40) have been sent 214 miles by R McKellar
Iron Lessadustow, Straib-fride. 1.50 SANDSTORM AMATEURS HANDICAP (CLASS G) (DIV I) £2,375 added 6f

(CLASS G) (DIV 1) 122-315 BROKEST OF 110501 LEBH CROPER (12) KI B P CANDS 8 11-34 T MACRATUS 56 30633 DESERT MANDER (6) (CD) D CROPER B 11 2 Lifes R Clark 3 610605 SEAL TEM (55) A Bridge 4 110 Lifes A L Helphinson (7) 4 8 740-153 DAMFAR (23) (7) 8 Smart 6 10 10 Lifes A L Helphinson (7) 4 8 740-153 BOLD HOBE (6) (D) 1 Pears 6 9 12 Lifes B Warshall (4) 8 V 605454 MARSHARDROSS MANUS (8) 88 (2) 59 11 Lifes Baron More 10 (COCCO) AMOTHER MERITMARE (307) (D) R Marches 59 10 Lifes C Williams (6) 2

2.20 SANDSTORM AMATEURS HANDICAP (CLASS G) (DIV E) £2,375 added 67

OF PRINT MADE (SELT) E ABON 49 10 K Fallon 2

0/2471; VEHACE ESLAR (SUS) C BROOK 5 5 10 J D SHIBLE (S) 5

50. COHERTION RED (ST) M SAUTLES 4 9 5 S DOWNER 4

50. XEROSHO (21) S Widers 3 8 6 Derma Williams (T) 8

50. LITTLE ACCION (109) S Williams 3 8 6 1 Table 8

40. OREJ JOSH (T) Mr. J Panysien 3 8 6 Femiliag 9

412. SHOULD ARM (170) R Cherton 3 8 6 T Specific 7

05. SHOULD RED (R MOSCHE 3 8 1 M Williams 2

WOLVERHAMPTON

Figures and the first course.

Course as N of town on A440, ADMISSION: Club \$15: Tateralle 86 (AUT members of Diamond Vanb \$45: Variety Resamble 87 (AUT members of Diamond Vanb \$45: Variety Resamble 87 (AUT members of Diamond Vanb \$45: Variety Resamble 87 (AUT members of Diamond Vanb \$45: Variety Resamble 87 (AUT Members of Diamond Vanb \$45: Variety Resamble 87 (AUT Members of Diamond Vanb \$45: Variety Resamble 97 (AUT Mem

8 0.050 SALLY ARRESTMENT (LEC FROMEN 4.99.M-Y Laborated 4.99.M-Y Labor - 10 declared SETTING S-1 Ring The Chief, 7-2 Both Habit, 9-2 Leigh Crefter, 5-1 Bothyeb,
8-1 Desert lawsdor, 10-1 Steat 'ern, Astrol lawsdor, 14-1 others

10 444001 MUSTANG (4) (C) C Thorson 4.9 1 (7e) _ Mrs L Pearce 2.8 _ 10 declared _ 8577643 3-1 Unite Box, 7-2 Resting, 5-1 Manjoric Rose, 7-1 Decdag Stone, 8-1 Lockon, Dream Carrier, 10-1 others

2.50 TEMPEST MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 100yds

- 9 declared -RETTING: 9-4 Leading Spirit, 7-2 Albains, 6-1 Luoresto, 7-1 Milita's Sta 8-1 Cisine Castie, HOI Farm Dancer, 12-1 others ## Cashe Cashe, Hill Farm (Bascer, 12-1 outer)

Cashe Cashe, Hill Farm (Bascer, 12-1 outer)

Cashe Cashe, Hill Farm (Bascer, 12-1 outer)

DAGESS HORTHERN FAM (S) (D) N Trifler 5-94 ____ Dean McKlemm 8

DAGESS HORTHERN FAM (S) (D) N Trifler 5-94 ____ L Chemock 1

DAGESS HORTHERN FAM (S) (D) N Trifler 5-94 ____ L Chemock 1

DOUGHO CONTENT HORNE (C) N Burne 1-8 12 ____ P McCabe (S) S O DOUGHO CONTENT HORNE (LS) N N HORT 5-87 ____ C Restore 4

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore 4

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore 4

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore 4

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore 4

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore (S) 7

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore (S) 7

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore (S) 7

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore (S) 7

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore (S) 7

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore (S) 7

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore (S) 7

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore (S) 7

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore (S) 7

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore (S) 5-9

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore (S) 5-9

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore (S) 5-9

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore (S) 5-9

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ___ C Restore (S) 5-9

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ____ C Restore (S) 5-9

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 _____ C RESTORE (S) 5-9

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 _____ C RESTORE (S) 5-9

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (S) (C) A Bulley 5-87 ______ C RESTORE (S) 5-9

DAGESS DAYD MAYES GRI, (

- 10 declared -BETTENS: 11-4 Northern Fan, 7-2 Soldier Cove, 4-1 Saraci, 6-1 Fingstaf B-1 Flaba, 10-1 David James' Giri, 12-1 North Arder, 18-1 others 4.50 MONSOON HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 5f

-14 decimed -RETINE: 16-11 Developme, 9-4 Morpheut, 7-1 Zander, 13-1 Patellon, 26-1 Raw Hamble, 25-1 Altimery Miles, Michigovec, 38-1 officers 1986: Jocis Cross 5 11 5 8 Heading 11-10 (8 Richards) 11 ran Amer. JOSE Lives, 5 11.0 of religing 11.20 is instrumed 11.50 in Housing made the running in two earlier starts and been being there all the way when third behind buthspequent winners Epocadd and Peace Look at Mariest Rosen, putsiAASSANA was held up here less three and showed improved form to beet Gots Squad-and hot towards St. Mellion Orlive. He had latie mouble drawing clear after being produced to lead at the shall flight and, it synthing, has less on his place this time. Pick of the opposition has to be flooring and eight year-old who has had little racing since winning a Chelsonham bumper two seasons ago. After so long out of the game Morpheus was undestandably a fat lean on his first two nars back and was anchored at the near usel staying or to be released at the first by being a stablement by Cheeky Mari and White Hand at Market Resen lost direct. That showed he had retained a bir measure of ability and he should make sure Derekam doesn't have it af his own way. Zeader had not less afform in bumpers, here and at Marieta, before liguring prominently until the third last at Lingheld on his burding debut. He can only improve and may smalk into a place. Selection: OARAKSHIA. 2.40 HUGH PEEL CHALLENGE TROPHY HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £1,474 2RQP-21 CHE COTTABLE (B) (D) I Carol D Caro 13 12 7 Air R Limither (7) 2RQP-22 CHE COTTABLE (B) (D) I Carol D Caro 13 12 7 Air R Limither (7) 2RQP-24 HIGHWENT FIVE MSSQ BLMC SLEAN BROOKE LINK Scena Brooke 9 12 7 Miles E Jennes (7) 455-42 CORNE EXCHANGES (22) (D) Vision D Oughen 3 12 0 Air R Takens (7) 467-450 ORTON HOUSE (253) (Max 8 P Rink) S Rinky 10 12 0 Air R Takens (7) 467-450 DECEMBER (22) (Max 1 O Blook) Miles 1 Blooky 11 12 0 Miles 7 Miles (7) 467-450 DECEMBER (2) Miles 1 ORTON (2) Air R Links (5) 467-450 DECEMBER (5) Miles 1 ORTON (6) Air R Links (5) BETTERC: 6-4 Cape Cottage, 15-8 Fore Fortner, 11-2 Vestrator, 10-1 Orine Bourse, 12-1 Referred Five, 14-1 Core Enghange 1996: SquareRestruggler 9 11 2 Mass 5 Rections R-15 /S Brookense) 4 tan structure of the first structure of t 1996: Summelistrageer 9 11 2 Mas S Sections 8-15 iS Brookshall 4 ten PORM GUIDE. CAPE COTTAGE has been a decent hunter in its day. Now 13, and lightly-raced in the post two seesons, he gave firm sedence he wasn't needy to draw his pension just yet when chearing home Mits Millbrook at Hereford first time out and showed that wasn't a false by gaing on to beet best Fox Pointer and previous winner inch Mad at Ludlow. He has a waith of appetience to call on and a reproduction of the Ludlow nun would be good enough. Thus superience to call on and a reproduction of the Ludlow nun would be good enough. Thus reproduce won a maideer on the opening day of lest season and vesen't seen again tridl in Forthere won a maideer on the opening day of lest season and vesen't seen again tridl in finite seen and the continued of these. The tridle grilly-read seven-peer-old variet appear to have more scope than most of these. The tridle are won two times between the flags in 1995 and his second in a continued at Larkell last month glass him every chance of place money again. Selections CAPE COTTAGE

3.40 HOLYWELL SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2m

24503-6 GREBALD VERTURE (13) IF Caton's Foton 10: 12: 0
225/25 REPAIR VERTURE (13) IF Caton's Foton 10: 12: 0
225/25 REPAIR HI STOC (13: 0) Use & Journe Refuells 14 Figs 11: 12: 0.
00/203- Explanted Servicion (13: 0) Jest (W Jerles) W Jerles 10: 11: 8
USFFS2 Relational Tarkin (8) (4) Manures's Hadrings 7: 11: 8
13-272* Relational Tarkin (8) (4) Manures's Hadrings 7: 11: 8
40-PR31, Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Journal (9: 11: 8)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Journal (9: 11: 8)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Journal (9: 11: 2)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Journal (9: 11: 2)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Journal (9: 11: 2)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Journal (9: 11: 2)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Journal (9: 11: 2)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Journal (9: 11: 2)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14)
13-272* Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14) Jest's Act & Bollo (10: Pagl-14)
13-272 RACING RESULTS

KEL50

CSF: £76,54. Two: £35,40. NR: Fly Eucu-

Evel. 1.00: 1. NEAL EDWIC (P Carbony) 11-10 far; 2. Mass Pageant 9-1; 3. Cardinal Sta-ney 100-1. 8 inn. 11. dist. (G Richards. Gregories: Tages £2.00: £1.00, £4.10. DF: 05.10 Feb. 2007.

LICE E CALL THE SHOTS (P. JOESON)

3.10: 1. SML THE SHOTS (P. JOURNAL)
10-1: 2. Handhigh Builds 5-2: 3. Parsons
Boy 7-2. E size. 11:6 for Opint Meloch (untentro inter). Hs. 24. Uthich, Fernythin. Teles
£11.00: \$5.90. £1.40. DF. £18.30. CSF.
£29.50. MF. Ret The Wag.
6.00: 1. MISTOD DRES MOTTES (P. Carboshy) 6-4 for, 2. Last Rushings 25-1: 3. Bizzleg Danne 25-1: 5 mm., 3-6. 3. G. Rectocks,
Gregotoley. Totale (2.10; £1.20, £1.20. DF.
£23.50. GSF. £3.60.2. MF. Rosh One (9-1),
withdrawn not under onness. Rule 4 applies
to sil bors. deduction 300 on the pound.

25.10. CSF. EB.67.

Constituted the

4.30: 1. LAGEN BRIDGE (D.) McRati) 2-7 M. 2. Cestle Red 14-1: 3. Pessian Grange 00-1. 3 ran. 9, 5. (D Molan, Carmet, Total 10-1. 3 ran. 9, 5. (D Molan, Carmet, Total 4.307 L Death Red 14-1: 3. Pestian Grange 100-1. 8 ten. 9, 5. (0 Motest, Cermod). Total CLOC, £1.10, £4.30, £14.30, £14 Forecast. £5.51. 10.50. Computer Straight Forecast. £5.51. Inc. £73.50. Nr. Sar Bob. Scott. 1. SAART APPROACH (P Niver) 5-4 So; 2. Solorman Springs 8-1: 2., Neature '07 The Rock 5-1. 5 rate. 3½, 22. (Mrs M Review, Saktour). Total £1.70. £1.10, £3.10. Dr. £4.70. CSF: £9.87. Place Or. £19.63. Place 5: £9.37. 119.CESTER 2.00: 1. COPLIN CAPER & Calagram
15.2: 2. Arthur Bed 5-1; 2. Surrow Neights
3-1 (so. 2 cars. 30. 5. IT Watter, York. Total
£7.20; £1.50, £1.90, £1.10. DF. £10.90.
CSF. £36.53, Triest: £109.60.
2.30: 1. EFFAREISH & Thomburi 50-1:
2. Ashgrave Damoer 2.2 fac. 2. Riveser 5-1;
£6 ras. (5. 2. 17 Dodds, Armstol). Total
DDC 2.5: 40; £1.30, £1.30. DF. £34.90.
CSF. £76.56. Tan. CSF. 46. MF. Ry Encour

LECESTER LERUZSI EM

2.20: 1. TRETON MILL (Mr B Polody 11-10
tor; 2. Charry teined 10-1; 3. Up Fac Rancome 50-1. 15 ran. 3, 3%. (Mrs C Senfides). Tota: 52.30: £1.50, £4.20, £13.90.
Dusi Forecast: £13.20. Computer Straight
Forecast: £10.34. Trics £205 30. Mrc Tedarocks.

2.50; 1. EASTERN RIVER ON R THORROW 4.7 Car. 2. Dollino. 251; 3. Price March 14-1.9 can. 5, hd. (7 Foote). Totac £1.40; £1.10. £3.50, £2.20. DF: £5.60. CSF: £1.8.20, Treast £100.86. This £25.60. 3.20; 1. TREAST 1AD ON Phackary 5-1: 2. Minosite Deprices 15-9 Sec. 3. Beautim 4-1. 6 res. 2. 3%. (M. Roberts). Totac £5.70; £2.20, £2.20. DF: £6.50. CSF: £14.36.

3.50: 1. Hogelt ANDMAN (Mr Chris Wison)
66-1; 2. Peoplede 25-1; 3. Glen Oaix 20-1.
7 cm. 7-4 fav Corner Boy (40h). %, 2%. U
Heldane), Totne £48, 70: £13, 40; £3, 70. DP:
50.80. CS: £83, 60.

4.20: 1. COPPER THESTLE (Mr A Hurrisett)
13-2; 2. Emorre 9-4 jf tax; 3. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1. 9 cm. 9-4 jf tax; 73. Mitchells Best,
6-1.

A.50:1. A WHIST CITIZEN WE AS BOTO-5-2 g Byr, 2. Nowhisid 8-1: 3. Confy Spo-chill 9-2, 13 ran. 5-2 g tav Beeu Dandy (4th). 2. 4. (Mrs. C. Hicks). Totas: £4.60; £2.50, £5.00, £1.20. Dual Forecast: £14.80. Con-puter Scrught Forecast: £21.51. The: £33.50. NR: Minericanies. Jackpott: £19.580.10 - part won. Pool of

F14.819.86 carried forward to Bangor today. Placepot: £1,214.40. Quedpot: £334.60. Place 9: £211.20, Place 8: £144.20. LINGFIELD 2.10: 1. EAGER TO PLEASE (D HORARD)
100.30 for, 2. Stone Magio 7-2; 3. Spending
Edge 11-2. B rat. 14. ni. (Mice G Keleway, Whitcombo). Tetes: 23.80: 21.10.
22.10. £1.70. Dual Forecast: £7.70. Company Spraight Forecast: £12.91. NR: Chang.
Tho: £10.90.

2.40: 1. CAPTAIN'S DAY (R Muler) 5-4 fev. 2. Digsast 15-1: 3. Mismoss 15-1: 8 res. 2th, 1th, (H Colongridge, Newmarket, Totae: £2.50; £1.10. £3.80, £3.40, Dr. £15.20, £5: £20.64, Interest £192.58, 3.10: 2. Heart Five (G Berdwell 9-1 tw); 2. Outstaynel Welcome 16-1: 3. Cotoridge J-2. 9 res. 3th, 5th-1ot, (R Ingran, Fixer-tro), Totae: £3.40; £1.50, £1.60, £1.50, £1.

£4.00; £2.00, £1.40. Dual Forecast: £4.10. CSF: £9.49. 4_10: 1, KI CHI SAGA (R Hughes) 15-1: 2. Tutgarrata 3-1 g tor; 3. Periloss Prignt 100-30, 8 ross, 3-1 g tov Revi (4th). 21/s, sm-nd. (M. Madgecki, Denmard). Totat £25,90; £3-20, £1.90, £1.10, Df: £36-40.

255.09; 83.20; £1.90; £1.10; D* 136.40.
CSF: £60.50.
4.40: 1. ENGLISH INVADER (Nr 1 Mc-caring 5-1: 2. Don't Drop Bombs 16-1: 2.
Helpith Of Fame 7-1, 10 rea. 3-1 tw Lok.
4. 3. (C Dayer, Newmorks). Tota: £7.00.
£2.30, £1.80, £1.80. Dr. £79.80. CSF.
£80.54. Incast £528.20. Tric: £84.80.
Parcente £58.30. Desiront £21.90.

United generate expectant tingle

The daffodils are out in Manchester and with them the old Trafford, although unblemished by vellow petals, will be suffused with this seasonal expectancy tonight.

tt is not just the occasion -the ground's first European Champions Cup que ter-final since the 1960s - hut the uning which has generated the tingle of anticipation.

Three months ago, when Manchester United were paired with Porto, there was a sense of foreboding at Old Trafford. By their standards. United were languishing in the Premiership and fortunate to have survived in Europe. Porto were already on course for a third successive domestic title and, in Europe, they had humbled Milan.

But a cleansing winter in Manchester has been matched by a murky one in Porto. Even coneern over an ankle injury to Roy Keane cannot dim the dreams of a United team which is now four points clear in the Premiership. Porto, although even further clear in their league, have become assailed by fears.

Against weak opposition, the team have taken one point from the last six, but that is the least of their worries. The club

itself is facing disgrace.
The last thing Porto's chairman, Jorge Pinto da Costa, wanted to see when he arrived in England this week was headlines about match-rigging. He has enough of those at home where

he is at the centre of a scandal. Briefly, Da Costa, who recently resigned as the head of the body which appoints Portimidating the officials. One of

Glenn Moore looks forward to tonight's European

Cup quarter-final

arranged by the travel agent brother of Antonio Oliveira, the current Porto manager, and taken by a referee.
There is also a European an-

gle, a piquant one in the circumstances. Da Costa has been accused, by the president of another Portuguese club, of hrib-ing the Romanian referee of another European quarter-final, 12 years ago, in the European Cup-Winners Cup. The opponents were Aberdeen, the manager Alex Ferguson, Porto won.

Uefa, the sport's European governing body, has taken an interest in the allegations and in Portugal there is such disenchantment with the game one group of prominent intellectuals renounced Portuguese foothall and declared they would henceforth follow Barcelona. This is the hackdrop to Por-

to's arrival in Manchester. Yet they cannot be underestimated. Their players are capable of winning without any help from referces. One key figure is Mario Jardel, the Brazilian who would be at Ibrox had Rangers managed to secure a work permit. Quick with his feet and powerful in the air, he is the Portuguese League's leading scorer and struck twice in the San

Siro when Porto beat Milan. The other central figure is Jorge Costa, who achieved in-ternational notoriety when he was head-butted by George Weah in the group stage. Costuguese referees, is accused of tais suing Weah for alleging the systematically bribing and in- assault followed racist provocation. Costa does not deny bethe allegations, all of which he ing a firm tackler and his denies, concerns a holiday. It encounter with Eric Cantona is

There is a Slovenian. Zlatko Zahovic, a Yugoslav, Ljuhinko Drulovic, and a clutch of other Brazilians. They include Artur, who matched Jardel's four Champions' League goals, Aloisio, Lula, and Edmilson. There could have heen a sixth Brazilian on show, hut Emer-son left Porto for Middlesbrough in the summer. One wonders what he is thinking as he prepares, instead, to play Derby in tonight's relegation scrap at the Riverside.

Keane, whose consistency shames Emerson, is "doubtful" Ferguson said after his fitness test yesterday. "I hoped he would have done better," Ferguson said. "It did not go as well as we wanted. We will given him every chance,"

With Nicky Butt already ruled out, the feeling is that Keane will start the first leg with Ronny Johnsen alongside, while, up front, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer will be preferred to

Fer uson has reminded his team that in Europe opponents can be at their most dangerous when the ball is near their own goal. The lesson appears to be sinking in, with Ryan Giggs saying: "A lot of the European sides like Porto are counterattacking teams, so you have got to be careful about giving the ball away."

The last Old Trafford European Cup quarter-final was ainst Rapid Vienna in 1908-69, United, defending the title they bad won against another Por-tuguese side, Benfica, won 3-0. A repeat is unlikely, but if Unit-ed can keep the tempo high and the back door shut, they should travel to Oporto in a fortnight with something to defend.



Coulthard back in spotlight

Before the start of the Formula One season in Melbourne on Sunday, Derick Allsop talks to the Scot who aims to become the UK's No 1 driver

Exit Damon Hill enter David Coulthard. That, at least, is the way it would seem and the way the latter would have it.

Hill's unceremonious shunt-ing into Formula One's sidings means the drivers' champi-onship will change hands this year. So, too, will the torch of the United Kingdom's leading

Now that may smack of being dammed with faint praise in an arena where we are told only winning counts, but the tag of the nation's No I is much coveted It bolsters the ego, car-ries kudos and wields com-mercial clout. It can also generate the kind of momentum that conveyed Hill, and Nigel Mansell before him, all

the way to the world tide. It does not take a bright 25year-old to work that out, but since Coulthard has intelligence and youth on his side, he might well be able to make the

most of this opportunity. He will also be aware that his first concern must be to match and then beat his team-mate at McLaren-Mercedes, the Finn, Mika Hakkinen. Few question Hakkinen's pace or courage but some wonder about his judgement. Others wonder about Coulthard.

One team boss suggested recently: "It's not going to hap-pen for him, and if he gets blown away by Hakkinen, which I believe will happen, Coulthard's history.

That is how brutal it is in Formola One. However, another

ficial, who is prepared to be amed, Patrick Head, the technical director of Williams, envisages the possibility of a. different

scenario. worked with the Scot in 1994 and 1995 and orice declared his 'dream team" to be Michael

Schumacher Coulthard: Competitive car and Coulthard, said: I don't necessarily see it new to me anyway. You going all Mika's way. If this McLaren is quick, and the indications are that it may be, then it wouldn't surprise me if David

was quicker than Hakkinen." He explained that Coulthard preferred a quicker, "truer" car to one which was unpredictable: and undermined his confi-

dence. Winter testing has encouraged Coulthard to believe that the car, no longer bearing the colours of Mariboro but a silver livery and the name of their new sponsor, West, will be quick. "I wouldn't go so far as to say we have solved all our problems, but we have made encouraging progress," Coulthard's carefully balanced

He feels less restrained by political correctness in considering his relationship with Hakkinen. "We're team-mates and there's no real problem in a working sense, but we're not friends and he makes no particular attempt to be friendly. That doesn't bother me. In fact, I think it's a bit of a compli-

ment. It means he respects me. "He is highly regarded and certainly he's quick. But even in my first season for the team. last year, when I was rather inconsistent. I made considerable progress on him and, overall. was only about two-tenths of a second down on him. I know I can improve on that."

flead goes on to say: McLaren may win a race, but I'd be surprised if they won the championship." That appears to be the consensus of opinion within the sport. Coultkard does not argue, yet is not prepared, before Sunday's opening race in Melbourne, to lower his sights. He said: "You have to go into the season aiming for the championship and believing that is possible. Sure, the Williams will still be good, Benetton will be strong, and Michael Schumacher will get the best out of the Ferrari. But anything can happen."

Not, though, a successful championship defence by Hill. "No, I can't see Damon being able to do that," Coulthard said. So we come to the question of national succession. Johnny Herbert is stuck in the middle lane with Sauber, even if he does have Ferrari power this season, and, as Eddie Irvine is not allowed to overtake Schu-

for Coulthard's taking.
"Toat's the situation and the responsibility I relish," be said. "I'm a proud Scot and a proud Brit, and it would be an honour to fly the flag for the

macher, the UK title is there

whole country.
"Both Damon and Nige have enjoyed the privilege and advantage of that position. You draw on the support and undoubtedly it gives you lift. I am sure that helped carry them to their championships and I liked to think it could eventually belo me in the same way. Hopefully, the car will be competitive enough to make that possible and I will be able to

respond.
"Of course it means more pressure when you have not only your team but your coun-

try looking for you to produce the goods, but it ensures there is no complacency. Sometimes when vou are not in

form can dip a little and yon need a. kick up the backside.

"I'm nor afraid σf pressure and it's nothing

couldn't have a much higher level of pressure than I had when I first came into Formula One and was put into the car left by the best driver in the world.

"I couldn't fill Ayrton Senna's shoes, but the spotlight was on me and I believe I came through that reasonably well. By the end of the following season Pd got my first grand orix win and was quicker than Damon."

His first season with McLaren took him out of the spotlight, while Hill went on to dain the championship. Another season, another ball game. And, he would have you helieve, nnother Coulthard.

He said: 'I honestly feel better prepared for this season than any in the past. I've worked at my fitness, trained really hard and feel I have so much energy. I really am eager to get on with it now. "Until we actually start rac-

ing we can't know exactly where we are in relationship with the other teams, but I certainly believe we won't be too far away from the best.

"My goal is to be in a position to win races and start winning them on a regular basis. If you do that then you don't have to worry about the cham-

pionship, because that will be along anyway. But for now all I want and need to think about is racing at the front, and showing I can compete with these guys, because when the lights go out I genumely believe I can run with the best and beat the best."

Schumacher a 'prima donna

Ron Walker, chairman of the esterday in the acrimonious build-up to Sunday's grand prix in Melbourne.

Walker began his verbal scared of Jacques Villeneuve

ritle race. Schumacher, who is on holiday in Queensland. did not respond to Walker's

Lirace. sportsman of Schumacher's calibre, who I believe earns in excess of \$30m [£19m] a year, than to blame our world-class circuit with six passing spots -more than most tracks in the

world," he said. Schumacher had been quoted on Monday as saying the Albert Park track was "nothing special" and could be improved both with greater safety measures and better.

Zidane anticipates fjord fiesta Burns confident of Rosenborg Trondheim, who qualified for tonight's quarter- along with compatriot Didier tonight's quarter- along with compatriot Didier ceived yellow cards. Trond Egil Soltvedt – have all received yellow cards. Matthias Sammer, ruled out ceived yellow cards.

qualified for tonight's quarterfinal of the European Cup at the expense of Milan, may yet prove a hogey team for Italian clubs midfielder Zinedinc Zidanc.

"Rosenborg shouldn't be too big a problem," the Frenchman said on the eve of the first leg. "With all due respect, if we play to our best then we'll prove the better side and go through. At the moment, I think Juventus are the best team in Italy... and perhaps also in Europe. Few observers would argue

with such confidence. The Serie A leaders approach the match Zidane, who missed Juve's 2-0 league win over Vicenza on

in Trondheim in buovant mood. seven points clear of domestic rivals Internazionale and Parma.

along with compatriot Didier Deschamps to replace Alessio Tacchinardi and Attilio Lombardo. The availability of the but the Norwegian part-timers French midfielders partly comhold no fears for the Juventus pensates Juventus for the injuryfirst-choice strikers, Alessandro Del Piero and Alen Boksie. Michele Padovano and Christ-

ian Vieri play in their stead. Juventus are boistered at the back by the return of their firstchoice goalkeeper. Angelo Peruzzi, who missed the club's last

two league games. Rosenborg prepared for the tie in Cyprus, where they won two matches and drew one. They have no injury or suspension problems but several players -Jon Olav Hielde, Roar Strand, Bent Skammeisrud, Harald Bratthakk, Biorn Otto Bragstad and

ceived yellow cards.

Meanwhile, the Borussia Meanwhile, the Borussia Europe's player of the year, sus-Dortmund coach, Ottmar tained heavy bruising in Ger-Hitzfeld, has warned the club's many's friendly with Israel in Tel fans and players against underestimating Auxerre, the Geranother of tonight's European

Cup quarter-finals. Hitzfeld expressed surprise yesterday that the first-leg match was not yet a sell-out. "The difficulty of our task is being totally underestimated in Dortmund. Hitzfeld said. "I can't understand the fans who are leaving

us in the lurch now." The coach rates the French champions highly, despite the fact they are having a poor season. Auxerre lie seventh in the league and were knocked out of the French Cup on Friday. Dortmund will be without

Aviv last week. He missed Dortmund's 4-1 Bundesliga win over 1860 Munich on Saturday and

has been told to rest for 10 days. Hitzfeld is also deprived of the captain. Michael Zorc, because of suspension, and Julio Ccsar and Steffen Freund through injury.

Auxerre must do without the striker Steve Marlet and defender Franck Rabarivony, who are both sidelined with injuries. But the main concern of the coach, Guy Roux, is the form of midfielders, Moussa Saib and Sabri Lamouchi, "We've got a real playing problem," Roux said. "We need the playmakers to return to form."

halting Rangers' run Tommy Burns yesterday insisted Celtic can put an end to a have players who can score

nine-match run against Rangers without a win - six defeats and three draws over the last 22

months The Celtic manager believes his side will win tomorrow's Tennents Scottish Cup quarterfinal at Parkhead, "Never once in the past two seasons have we been outplayed in these earnes."

he insisted. "If anything, we've outplayed Rangers on several occasions and only the brilliance of Brian Laudrup or Paul Gascoigne, or our defensive errors, have

been decisive. We have not defended prop-

erly against Rangers in the past and we must defend properly on Thursday night. If we do we'll

have players who can score goals and we believe we can beat

Burns has enjoyed just two victories from 13 games against Rangers during his Parkhead management, with the last a 3-0 success at Hampden on 7 May 1995. Burns will leave it late to

name his side, but Enrico Annoni looks like filling the rightback position as he plays in an Old Firm match for the first time after bis arrival from

Richard Gough is giving Rangers cause for concern because of a calf injury, and Walter Smith is already without Paul Gascoigne, Sebastian Rozental

O'Neill. But there are crucial

battles facing Nottingham For-

est, Southampton and Mid-

dlesbrough, three of the four

sides languishing at the bottom

The goalkeeper Mark Cross-

ley returns after a one-match

suspension for Forest's match

against Sheffield Wednesday while the midfielder Ian Woan

is still suspended. Chris Bart-

Williams and Kevin Campbell

Middlesbrough, who take on

Derby County at the Riverside

in a dress rehearsal for Satur-

day's FA Cup quarter-tinal at

the Baseball Ground, welcome

back the defenders Nigel Pear-

are ruled out through injury.

of the table.

and Stuart McCall.

May replace Reed

if asked to do so by police.

awarded a disputed late penalty to Chelsea in last week's FA Cup fifth-round tie between the clobs and his car was attacked on the way home to Birmingham. Police are concerned about possible repercussions and the safety of Reed in the return League game, although they have no power to order a change

ty could be put in jeopardy. Steve Double, a spokesman for the FA, said: "We have had no formal request from the powe would obviously pay heed to

Football

7,30 unless stated

QUARTER-FINALS FIRST-LEG Ajox v Alletico Madrid

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Chelsea v Blackburn 17.451 — Leicester v Aston Villa (7.45).

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION

Albion Rovers V Allos

Middlesbrough v Oerby (7.45)

Notton Forest v Sheffield Wed (7.45)

Southempton v Everton

Albion November 9 Values

Albion November 9 Values

Leonards v Comyn Bay.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Michael Division:
Certy Town v Rothwell Town (7 45); Paget
Rungers v Schild! Borough.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Pressier Divi-sions Caine Town v Chappenham Town (7.45); Mangogsheid Uttiv Backweil Utd; Westbury Unit-ed v Odd Down (7.45).

FUROPEAN CUP

ty aspect of things. If the police

O'Neill also backed the in the FA Cup.

game stopped and started all the time because of waiting to see videos of incidents. While it might have worked in our favour at Chelsea, it is not a good idea in my view."

(IBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Bish-Auckland v Alfreion Town (7,45), First Di-

UNUET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE FIRST DI-

WINSTONI FAD KENT LEAGUE First Division:

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Pre-

MORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Di-vision: Prescot Cables v Holler Old Boys (7.45); Rossendate Utd v Atherton Collierus.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Divi-sion: Sudbury Town y Hadleigh Utd (7.45).

SION: Sudbury Town y Hadleigh Utd (7.45). JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Christchurch v

Ponsmouth RN.
FEDERATION BRIEWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE
First Division: Dunston Federation Brewery v
Consett; Whichman v Gusborough Town.
PONTINS LEAGUE Premior Divisions (Ridham
i Trannere 17.0) (a) Stahtmage Cellou, Piest
Divisions: Blackpool v Preston (7.0): Huddersfield v Sheffield Uid (7.0); Nors County
Wokkes (7.0); West Brommen's Sunderland
(7.0); or Halestowen Town, Second Divisions:
Burnley v Bractiond Chy (7.1.5): Streambury v
Carlisle (7.0); Stochport v Your (6.45); Tahra
Divisions: Bury v Scartorough (7.0); Chester

or Division: Sparting v Mintees Black

op Auckland v Affreion Town (7,45). Fit vision: Bradford Park Avenue v Gretna

THE SECTOD AY'S FIXTURES.

Zenga to join Revolution in America

Walter Zenga, the former Internazionale and Italy goalkeeper, is to play in America's nationwide professional league. Major League Soccer, with

New England Revolution. The 37-year-old, currently with Padova, said yesterday that he had agreed a two-year

Zenga will he joining up with another former Padova player, the American international defender Alexi Lalas. "I'm looking forward to a new experience." Zenga said.

ferring to Sampdoria in 1994. He joined Padova in Serie B last year. One of the most experienced Italian goalkeepers, he won 58 caps with the national team. Zenga has been preceded in America by other Italian vet-

Zenga spent 13 seasons with the Milan team before transerans such as Roberto Donadoni and Giuseppe Galderisi. With three of the top four

peting in Europe this week. Villa are looking to cement their own claims for a Uefa Cup place after Sunday's crucial victory over Liverpool. Ten points from the last four matches has elevated Villa to fifth position, but Little is keen not to lose the ad-

vantage gained from beating Liverpool.

we are looking for." being replaced. Leicester, who again have

portant thing is to follow up results like that one on Sunday. We know it will be a difficult game at Leicester for all sorts of different reasons but we want to get into that top four at some stage

Villa will check on the fitness of Steve Staunton, who returned against Liverpool after a spell out with an ankle injury for the first 45 minutes before

has been rested for the last two doubts over Ian Marshall and matches, may be recalled. Steve Claridge, are not looking like relegation candidates. Saturday's 3-t win at Wimbledon

Southampton, heartened by their 1-0 victory at Newcastle at the weekend, face Everton.

39 Telford v Slough... Tennents Scottish Cup fifth round (not on coupons): Falkirk v Rath, Morton v Kil mamock. Dundee Lito v Motherwell.

Bell's Scottish League (not on coupon Premier Division: Hibernan v Dunten line, First Division: Paruck v Airdne, Second Division 41 Ayr v Queen of the South 42 Clyde v Stranger 43 Dumbarton v Berwick

44 Livingston v Stenhousemuir Alee playing (not on coupons): Harrist ton v Brechin. Third Division 45 Alloa v Albion Rovers 47 Montrose v East Stirling ...

48 Queen's Park v Inverness CT 49 Ross County v Cowdenbeath Four draws: Oxford Litd v West Bromwich, York v Blackpool, Mansfield v Cardiff, Clyde **GM Vauxhali Conference** Five aways: Manchester Utd, Crystal Polace Enerthord, Canisie, Macclesfield. Ten homes: Arsenal, Leeds, Botton, Wolves Burnley, Chester, Fulham, Kiddemunster Ayr, Montrose,

Australian Grand Prix Corporation, labelled Michael Schumacher as an overpaid 'good-looking prima donna".

assault on the Ferrari driver on Monday after the German had apparently criticised the Albert Park circuit, Yesterday he appeared on Australian television backing his description of the double world champion who, he said was

of Canada winning this year's

overtaking opportunities.

The Football Association yesierday admitted it would replace the referee Mike Reed for next week's Premiership match between Chelsea and Leicester -

Reed caused anger among

Leicester supporters when he

of match official. The FA says in has had no formal request either. Part of the area normally allocated for away fans at Stamford

players' tunnel and Reed's safelice - but should we have one any request regarding the safe-

Bridge is in the vicinity of the

asked us to change the match official it would be likely that we would heed their request." Leicester have raised no ob-

"On Wednesday I was ab but I would not like to see the

jection to Reed being in charge, although their manager. Martin O'Neill, had described the penalty award which led to Franck Leboeuf scoring Chelsea's winner deep into extra time as "disgraceful". O'Neill said: "It is not our place to make the decision for the authorities."

stance taken by the game's goveming body. Fifa, not to allow television-video evidence to help referees with difficult decisions - even though its use might mean his side were still solutely furious at the decision

contract with the Boston club.

Danington (7.0); Walsad v Scuntnorpe (7.0); FA Carling Premiership Wigan v Doncaster (7.0).
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Divisions Bournemouth v Milwail (2.0); Charlton v Luton (2.0); Swindon v Bristol Cry (2.0). League Cage Arenal v Roment (2.0); Cadond Urd v Bristol Rosers (7.30); Porsmouth Leeds a Eventon. 3 Sunderland v Manchester United ...,2

FA YOUTH CUP Fifth round: Leads Line . Tran Rugby League

Rugby Union PRESENTATIVE MATCH: East Midlands v Ran-ans 13.01 (at Northampton). CLUB MATCH: Royal Navy v Cambridge Urs-versity (6.0) (at US Portsmouth).

Basketball

BOWLS: English Women's National Indoor Championship (York) BOXING: ABA finals (National Indoor Arena.

OF EMPERSOR & FACE IS 1 provider Dylors 1/26

Little's fear of Filbert Street sides in the Premiership comtook them to the 33-point mark nine short of the safety target set hy their manager, Martin

Brian Little, the Aston Villa manager, is anticipating another cold reception when he returns to his former club, Leicester, for tonigbt's key

Premiership game. Little suffered the brickbats of City fans when he resigned at Filbert Street in November 1994 before moving to Villa Park as Ron Atkinson's successor a few days later. He was greeted with placards proclaiming him as a "Judas" on the only other previous occasion he has taken Villa to Leicester, which was barely a fortnight af-

ter his appointment. Little, who still lives in Leicestershire, said: "The reception I had last time was arguahly as hot as anyone has ever had to endure in football and the ferocity of it surprised me. I still get a hit of stick now and then but time beals. I don't think the reception will be as hostile this time but I don't think all the Leicester City supporters will have forgotten the situation."

Also playing (not on coupons): Coven-ty City : Leicester City. Monday: Liverpool

FA Cup quarter-finals (not on coupons):

Nationwide Football League

Bradford City v Gnmsby

Manchester City v Didham

Charton v Crystal Palace

Norwich City v Port Vale

Friday: Barnsley v Sheffield Ltd.

First Division

Bolton v Swindon

10 Ownerd y West Brown ..

12 Store v losech...

Second Division

16 Gillereham v Watford

Little said: "The most im-

and achieve the place in Europe

son and Curtis Fleming after injury. Derby's veteran central defender, Paul McGrath, who

WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST

18 Plymouth v Rotherham 19 Preston v Brentford 20 Stockport v Bury ... 21 Walsali v Shrewsbur 22 Wycombe v Bristol Rovers . 23 York v Blackbook Third Division 24 Brighton v Leyton Onent

17 Notes County v Crews

25 Chesser v Barnet ...

26 Doncaster y Hull .

27 Fulham v Scarborough 28 Hereford v Northampto 29 Lincoln v Hardepook... 30 Mansfield v Cardiff 31 Rochdale v Wigan 32 Sounthorpe v Carlisle. 34 Torquay v Darlington Friday: Cambridge Utd v Coichester

3S Kidderminster v Halifax

36 Southport v Femborough

37 Stalybridge v Altimetiam 38 Stevenage v Northwich

المكذا من الأصل

CRICKET: England have to settle for tied one-day series as New Zealand dispense with captain Germon and promote Fleming

المكدا من الأصل

Atherton content despite defeat

reports from Wellington New Zealand 228-8 ngland 200 New Zealand win by 28 runs

Michael Atherton insisted that was rewarded for two successive objectives had been achieved" in New Zealand, despite defeat in vesterday's fifth and final onetional which meant that the series was tied 2-2.

The England captain regards the 2-0 victory in the Test series as the most important business of the tour and the emphasised that England clid not actually lose the one-day series.
"New Zealand are a more

than capable one-day side,
Atherton said. They fought
back weil after going 2-0 down
and I must say we were feeling a bit tired at the end of a long winter. When you are two up in series and you can't lose and

a little bit. That's not an excuse. It's a pretty disappointing end but generally things have gone well for us here. We'll go home on a high rather than on a low." His counterpart, New Zea-

was rewarded for two successive displays and then batting in a one-day wins with the sack. The substandard fashion. Once wicketkeeper/batsman, who has again, they found the slow been captain in all 12 Tests he medium pace of Chris Harris has played since his debut in India late in 1995, becomes the first conceded only 22 runs from his New Zealand skipper to be dropped in mid-season since Jeff Crowe in 1988.

Germon has paid the price for the Kiwis' defeat in the Test series. The convenor of selectors, Ross Dykes, named the 23year-old Stephen Fleming to lead the side in two Tests against Sri Lanka, the first of which starts in Dunedin on Friday.

"There was a lot of soul searching and really it came down to form, which is the crithings have gone pretty well, the teria we've tried to use through-



tendency is to step off the gas, out the season. That's the bot-

tom line," Dykes said.

England struggled to raise their game at the Basin Reserve yesterday, bowling poorly in parts during New Zealand's 228 for 8, fielding scrappily in comparison with their recent 10-over spell, and also took the wicket of Nasser Hussain.

Gavin Larsen, who was New Zealand's other main bowling weapon, had John Crawley Ibw for 11 and finally snuffed out England's hopes of victory by having Graham Thorpe stumped for 55. The Surrey lefthander was ninth out as he charged and swung in desperation. The man of the match, Nathan Astle, added to his innings of 94 by picking up the wickets of Jack Russell and Craig White in three balls to finish with 2 for 26.

Crawley and Russell, who was playing only his eighth day's cricket in three and a half months, were drafted in as England reorganised their line up because of Nick Knight's broken finger and Dominic Cork's hamstring strain.

Andy Caddick was the pick

of England's bowlers, although the off-spinner Robert Croft in-ished his highly successful debut tour with another very competent spell.

At one stage New Zealand appeared to be heading for a total of around 250, but England never looked capable of matching their eventual score of 228 several moments of outrageous good fortune. He was bowled by a no-ball, from the second delivery of the imnings, and several times inside-edged just past his stumps and hit strokes just short or wide of fielders.

Atherton was eventually run



to No 5, the lower middle or-

make 43 and, after a failed experiment to promote the Yorkperiment to promote the Yorkperiment to promote the Yorkphise hearless Chair Silvaniand

played a ball towards midwickperiment to promote the Yorkperiment to promote the Yorkphise hearless Chair Silvaniand

played a ball towards midwickperiment to promote the Yorkphise hearless Chair Silvaniand

played a ball towards midwickperiment to promote the Yorkphise hearless Chair Silvaniand

played a ball towards midwickperiment to promote the Yorkphise hearless Chair Silvaniand

played a ball towards midwickperiment to promote the Yorkphise hearless Chair Silvaniand

played a ball towards midwickperiment to promote the Yorkphise hearless Chair Silvaniand

played a ball towards midwickperiment to promote the Yorkphise hearless Chair Silvaniand

played a ball towards midwickperiment to promote the Yorkphise hearless Chair Silvaniand

played a ball towards midwickperiment to promote the Yorkphise hearless Chair Silvaniand

played a ball towards midwickperiment to promote the Yorkphise hearless Chair Silvaniand

played a ball towards midwickplayed a ball towards midwickperiment to promote the Yorkphise hearless Chair Silvaniand

played a ball towards midwickperiment to promote the Yorkperiment to promo shire bowler, Chris Silverwood, turn back and the Glamorgan

the time, but England were

heavier margin of defeat. Nick Knight's shattered It seemed a sensible move at knuckle joint is being held to-

depended on Thorpe but, when fast running out of wickets and, gether by six screws. Knight was he charged down the pitch for a quick single, Croft having defiant last-wicket stand of 27 april 27 for the pinning of the knuckle weeks of the county season.

they could be without their England opener for the first two

international. The healing

process is expected to take six

weeks, but Warwickshire fcar

S Africa humbled by wrist of Warne

NEIL MANTHORP

reports from Johannesburg South Africa 302 & 130 Australia 628-8 dec Australia win by an innings & 196 runs

The irresistible wrist spin bowling of Shane Warne and Michael Bevan yesterday brought an early conclusion for Australia on the final morning of the first Test with victory over South Africa by an innings and 196 runs. South Africa, 302 behind on

first innings, collapsed from their overnight 99 for 4 to 130 all out in just over an hour, los-ing the last five wickets for three runs in five overs. It was the first time South Africa had lost by an innings in 33 years. Warne removed the remain-

ing specialist batsmen, Jacques Kallis and Jonty Rhodes, to finish with 4 for 43 and Bevan polished off the rest of the innings for his tally of 4 for 32. When the fifth-wicket pair

Kallis and Rhodes resumed at the start of the day, they held firm for 10 overs until Rhodes was trapped leg hefore by Warne for eight. Shaun Pollock and Kallis were together for a further six overs before Warne bowled Kallis round his legs for the innings top score of 39, and from that point South Africa's destiny was sealed.

SOUTH AFFRICA - First Intalings 302 (W J Croye 76, D J Richardson 72no), AUSTRALIA - First Innings 628 for 8 dec (G S Blewett 214, S R Waugh 160, M T G Ellott 85).

Fast-talking Boldon gets set to take Paris by storm However well Ato Boldon performs at this weekend's world indeed that if I got a questionable false start and saw a lifetime chance of that if I got a questionable false start and saw a lifetime chance of the world indeed that if I got a questionable false start and saw a lifetime chance of the world indeed that if I got a questionable false start and saw a lifetime chance of the world indeed that if I got a questionable false start and saw a lifetime chance of the world indeed that if I got a questionable false start and saw a lifetime chance of the world indeed that if I got a questionable false start and saw a lifetime chance of the world indeed that if I got a questionable false start and saw a lifetime chance of the world indeed that if I got a questionable false start and saw a lifetime chance of the world indeed that if I got a questionable false start and saw a lifetime chance of the world indeed that indeed the world indeed that indeed the world indeed that it is the world indeed that it



door championships in Paris, he will be the talk of the town. And, as is his wont, Boldon - who is most likely to perform stunningly well - will do much of the

talking himself. The 22-year-old from Trinidad and Tobago, who came away from last summer's Olympics with bronze medals at 100 and 200 metres and the promise of even better things to come, talks like he runs. The words and ideas pour out with bewildering rapidity, the attitude veering between arrogance and diffidence.
Having lived in the United

States since 1988, Boldon is at ease with the kind of "conversation as therapy" so popular on that side of the Atlantic. But there is a self-deprecatory instinct

Take his behaviour at the re-

cent indoor grand prix event in Birmingham, where he won the 60m and 200m in 6.49sec and 20.35, times that were respectively best equal and best in the world this year. Afterwards he pointed out that he had run so badly in his previous two indoor meetings this season that he had begun to wonder if he had

what it took to run on the boards. "I was beginning to think, maybe I'm an ontdoor guy, maybe I'm getting complacent, maybe I'm getting paid too much

Had be run as badly again, he said, he would have finished his indoor season there and then and concentrated on preparing for

world indoor athletics championships

this summer's outdoor world van Bailey, is something Boldon championships. If I hadn't done openly admires. The Irinidadiwell I'd still be down on the track an accepts now that his highlyworrying about what went wrong. It's a character flaw of mine. But," he added with a grin, "obviously this changes things. Now

I will run in Paris." Boldon is aware of the futility of too much soul-searching -something, you sense, that has come to him through much soul-searching. "The Olympic champion and world record holder lost 12 races last year." Boldon said. This is not a business to be in if you second-guess yourself."
The tranquil attitude of the At-

lanta 100m gold medallist, Dono-

public run-in after the 100m imal with Linford Christic, whom Boldon accused of putting him off by his protest over being falsestarted, was counter-productive. "It didn't seem to affect Donovan," Boldon said. "I'm the one who's responsible for myself." Boldon and Christie made

up two days afterwards as they prepared for a round of the 200m. "We made eye contact and he came up to me and said: Nuff respect'. I said the same. It was all that was needed. "I'm still not saying what he

"More than anything else in the 100m, emotion is what runs highest, not logic. Linford's was an emotional response so I've never held him culpable for it." Boldon's reception when he returned to his home country profound effect. "They responded as if it was two golds,"

he said. "Not having won any-thing in 20 years helps as well." Trinidad's last notable victory

by Haseley Crawford in the 1976 Olympic 100m final - has been inspirational to a young man who prides himself on his knowledge of sprinting statistics. "How many men have run

ran 19.85 and 9.94 in Lausanne last year. That's the kind of stuff that nobody else knows, where

I can draw my confidence from. At such moments, Boldon seems at one with H G Wells' Mr Lewisham, nursing his ambition with his Olympic medals had a as he reflects on the maxim: "Knowledge is Power".

The proposed £1m challenge in May between the Olympic 100 and 200m champions, Bailey and Michael Johnson, has clearly aggravated the double bronze medallist, who plans to break Bailey's 100m world record of 9.84 in April, "just to throw a monkey wrench in the works".

know whether he talked to convince the public or himself." Whichever applies to Boldon, if he continues to match words with deeds, he will win a lot more medals. Starting in Paris. Sonia McGeorge has pulled

out of the British team for the world indoor championships. The 32-year-old, due to run in the 3,000 metres, has been forced to withdraw after coming down with illness. She will not be replaced. Sweden's former high jump world record holder, Patrik Sjoberg, has also pulled out after a winter plagued by calf trouble. Preposterous? Possibly. But if

Robinson facing lay-off

Wigan's Jason Robinson could be out of action for two months, but is still wanted by South Sydney when his contract expires in June, writes David Hadfield. Robinson is to have a further

examination tomorrow on the ankle he injured in the friendly against Castleford on Sunday. It is feared that there may be ligament damage which could force a long lay-off.

There has been more bad news for Wigan, in that the Australian Rugby League seems to have no intention of cancelling the contract that commits Robinson to leaving England this

The future of Wigan could be decided today with both the chib chairman, Jack Robinson, and the Wigan Athletic chairman, Dave Whelan, who wants to buy Central Park, holding press

conferences. Bramley, who give Mick Shaw, the booker they have borrowed from their new landlords, Leeds, his debut in the opening game of their Second Division season against York tonight, are also taking two more of Leeds' youngsters on loan. The twins Anthony and David Gibbons are both joining Bramley on a temporary basis, so that they can

American football

American football
Victor Muhammad will be lining up for
the London Monarchs when they open
this year's World League against Frankfurt next month. The running back,
Muhammad, played in 1991 and 1992
as Victor Ebubedike and then for the
1995 and 1996 sessons as Victor X
Ebubedike. "When you are in the Nation of Islam, the X is an interim stage
before you are able to change your
rame. I have now earned and received
my Muhammad" the explained. with him through an agent and have told him that they want him to play as a centre in Sydney.

Backwintow

The All England Open Championships start next week with the lowest number of British seeds in history. Nichola Beck and Joanne Davies, the nestional women's doubles champions, are the only English seeds – placed seventh in the doubles, while Joanne Muggeridge, seemtly discarded for disciplinary reasons by England, is seeded eighth in the same event in partnership with Wales' Kelly Morgan. The Championships take place on 11-15 March at the National indoor Arena in Birmingham.

Basicothal

The Birmingham coach, Nick Nurse, yesterday picked up the Budweiser League Coach of the Morth award after his ade moved into title contention following eight successivet wins during February. Meanwhile, John White, the Leopards guard, is the Player of the Morth as he has proved to be a key contributor in helping his side to maintain their own title aspirations. Write ranks second in the league for scoring, averaging 24.89 points per game. points per game.

NBA: Buston 107 Toronto 103; Chicago 108

NBA: Buston 107 Toronto 103; Chicago 108

Milweusee 90; Unin 111 Golden State 104;
Sacramento 108 New Jersey 95.

BOWES

WOMEN'S ALL ENGLAND WINDOR CRAMPRONSHIPS (York): Chaempion of Chumpions, first round: A Harrison (Follestone) bt
LGRY (Adu., West Sussen) 21-17. Quarterfigure: A Harrison (Follestone) bt P Murphy
(Startey) 21-18. Richman to Smrtt 21-10.
Semi-dinais: S Richman (Ung George Field)
bt J Wison (Cumbria) 21-5; L Jaman (Cambridge Chesterton) bt A Harrison (Follestone) 21-18. Triples, first mand: Chernell
(K Hanca) bt Colchester (B Brown) 49-7; Cambridge Chesterton (L Jarman) bt Dolphin (J for Olympic gold again in the event in which he and the Sear-

Green) 24-12: King George Field (J Annan) bi Spelding IG Henroy 22-8; Follestone (A Har-rison) bi County Arts (R Norris) 19-18; Tem-worth (P Burton) bi Worthing (W Deales) 18-17; Eldon; Newcastie (A Hubbart) bi Mensfeld; North London (M Van Put) 19-15; Eghem (N Smith bi Copeland; Cumbrie (M Eodes) 28-9; Doryett (J Shecketts) bi Padbrook Paric Devon (P Clark) 22-21 (after eare and).

Neville Brown, the British middleweight champion, is to challenge for the European title against Hacine Cherif, the holder from France, on 26 April. Frank Warren, the promoter, has persuaded the Frenchman to give up home edventage and the bout will now be staged at Burton or Derby.

Confusion over purse dates means that Lennox Lewis will not defend his WBC heavyweight title against his fellow grann Henry Akmwande until June. Originally 9 April was set aside as the purse offer deadline, then it was changed to 17 March. Now Jose Sufairman, the World Boding Council president, is aiming at 26 March for bids, with the winning promoter being given 90 days to stage the light.

Criciost

Sussex have signed Mark Robinson, the former Yorkshire and Northampton-shire fast bowler, on a one-year contract. The 30-year-old, released by Yorkshire after six years at the end of last season, has been taken on as cover for the left-arm pacemen Jeson Lewy, who is out until the middle of June with a stress fracture of the back. India added the uncapped off-spinner Noel David yesterday to the squad four-ing the West Indias, while continuing to hope for the jeturn of the injured Jav-agai Srinath.

Lenceshire signed a three-year spon-sorship deal with the power company Norweb at Old Trafford yesterday. Richard Barrow has resigned from the Sussex committee in protest at the de-parture of five key players including Alan Wells, the former capitaln. His resigna-tion brings the number of members of the committee down to seven.

Football Pootball

MORDAY'S LAUE RESULTS: FA Carling Premisorshipt Covertry 1 Wimbledon 1. FA UMBRO
TROPAY Third-round replay: Deginham & Redbridge 2 Morscambe 1 Latter data thrus; Degonham & Redbridge home to Asynon Um. Lea
League Premier Divisions Puries; 2 S. Aberts
City 2. UmBond League Premier Disk Aberts
Ty 4 Guiseley 0. Winstantean Kent League
Flest Divisions Workert 1 Sheppey 0. Pontins
League Premier Divisions Biscistum 2 Derby

Gordon Sherry, Scotland's former British amateur champion, makes his debut on the Challenge four in Kerrya next week. Sherry failed to graduate from the European Tour qualifying school in November and is now looking for one of 15 places on next season's circuit given to Challenge Tour players.

Club, where he has been a member for over 50 years. PRINC LEADERBOARD: 1. L. Davies. (Engl 491.53; 2 A Sorenstam (Swel 448.77; 3 K Webb (Just 353.32; 4. L. Neumern (Swel 953.12; 5. D Pepper (US) 278.40; 5 K Rob-birs. (US) 263.87; 7 M McGarn (US) 247.46; 3. M. Azilon (US) 208.26; 9.] Geddes (US) 185.88; 10 E Nieln (US) 173.79. Other 88: 14 I Johnson 143.25; 15 A Netrolas 136.39; 11 Hackney 105.98; 28 J Morley 92.53; 42 C Pierce 74.65.

Zecland 3 Aggrena 1; South violate 7.

Z.

AEWHA CUP Fifth-round draw (ties to be played on Sunday 16 Merch): Chelmeford v Canterbury. Compon Rambiers v Aldrige: Doncaster v Wolding: Hightown v Trigans; breach v Olton; Studyn v Belsem Leicester, Sutton Coddield v Cheans, Warbledon v Cuffon. CAMERING UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S TEAM (Varsity metoh v Oxford, Witherforce Rd, Cambridge, Saburday, Zomic. C Whight, St. Catterine b). L Elevend Liessi, k Hauter (St. Cambridge, Saburday, Zomic. C Whight, St. Common. (Fizzwilsten). P Partical Courterful, R Silpin (Core; capt), 2 Boyssellth St. John J., S Stident St. John S, E Neisheld (St. Edmands). Substitution: S Party-Jones, 8 Boyd, M Levis, L Short (St. Catterne s).

Motorcycling BBC Television have extended their agreement to cover the MCN British Superbike Championship until the end of the 1999 season. The action will be shown on Grandstand on Saturdays and

Rugby League The Super League club Halifax Bluesox have signed a 12-month sponsorship deal with the new West Yorkshire radio

station, Classic Gold, which they say is worth more than £25,000. Sports politics Maurice Lindsay, the chief executive of the Rughy Football League and head of the World Super League, was yesterday re-elected as chairmen of the major spectator sports division of the Central Council for Physical Recreation.

SUPER LEAGUE: ICI. Lionherts 2 Dunraven Maesteg 1; Surbson 2 Ets Lingfield 1. Standings: Ets Lingfield 10pts; Dunraven

sesteg 10; Surbson 10; Rowlands Man-ester 9; KL Lionherts 9.

Henri Leconte, a Wimbledon semi-finalist in 1986 and a quarter-finalist in both 1985 and 1987, is to make his first appearance in Scotland in May, Leconte is to compete in the Legends men's doubtes tournament at the Craligockhart Tennis Certre, Edinburgh, from 21-24 May. Other entries for the tournament, which runs alongside the Women's World Doubles Cup, include the former British No 1, Jerry Bates, and Peter McNamera, the former Wimbledon men's doubles champlon. ARZONA CASSET DURNAMENT (Scotlander), Nilea's alongies, first round: J Golmant (Fr) bit W Ferreira (SA) 4-6 8-3 6-2; C Moya (Sp) bit M.

Tilistrom (Swe) 3-6 6-2 7-6; 8 Shelton (US) 18 Main/as Washington (US) 3-6 7-5 6-2; H Gumy (Arg) it M Lurston (Swe) 6-3 5-7 6-4; M Phappouses (Airs) bt 1 Hass (Ger) 2-6 6-3 6-4.

ROTTERDAM WORD INDOOR MEN'S TOUR-NAMENT (Netherlands) First round: J van Herch (Gib) bt A Boetch (PG 4-6 6-2 M Smert (Ger) at P Hammas (Meth) 6-3 6-4; D Princet (Swe) 16 M thermal (Stork) 6-2 2-6 6-3; E Finnet (Swe) 16 M thermal (Stork) 6-2 2-6 6-3; E Finnet (Swe) 18 Utherach (Cz Rep) 7-5 6-7 6-2.

LEADING ATP TOUR SINGLES RANKINGS: 1 P Sampas (US) 6-684/six; 2 7 Muster IAID 3,709; 3 M Charge (US) 3,595; 4 Y National AID (Russia 3,318; 5 6 Mentisent (Crail 3,2-53; 8 M Rus (Chile 2,4-13; 7 R Krapcok (Neth) 2,2-55; 8 M Finnet (Swe) 2,2-5; 9 W Ferniser (SNe) 2,2-5; 10 C Moya (Sp) 2,171; 68: 14 T Herman 1,753; 36 G Russia (Swe) 2,2-5; 9 W Ferniser (SNe) 2,2-5; 2-685; 2-285; 2 M Hings (Swe) 4,2-7; 3 I Nordine (CRed) 3,2-93; 7 M Hings (Swe) 4,2-7; 3 I Nordine (CRed) 3,2-5; 6 M Sales (US) 2,9-93; 7 M Hings (Son) 2,5-7; 8 L Dawerport (US) 2,440; 9 I Magol (Ora) 2,110; 10 K Habsudow (Sovel) 2,0-21.

Souths have been in contact play regular first team rugby. Henley lure for Redgrave

Steve Redgrave seems likely to row at the Henley Royal Regatta this year in an attempt to become the first person to win every major trophy there. Redgrave has won all the events from single sculls to fours.

but the Grand, which is for eights and is the most senior race in the regatta, has eluded him. Redgrave said in 1995 he would not compete at Henley again as he planned to retire after the Atlanta Olympics but he has rescinded that decision and will pursue another gold medal at the 2000 Sydney ner, Matthew Pinsent, decided le brothers won a bronze.

in October they needed a new challenge and the coxless four, won by Australia in Atlanta, provided the right motivation. The four will be selected

from next month's trials at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, with the crew preparing for the World Championships in France later this year. One of the practice runs will be Henley and Redgrave is anning at combining two fours in order to make history by winning the final trophy to add to his collection. For Tim Foster, part of the Ox-

ford crew in next month's Boat

Race, it could be a chance to go

STRACHAN WORLD MATCHPLAY CHAMPI-ONSHIPS (Norwich) First rouset A Goordin (Md) bt F Wison (Eng) 4-1; S Multani (Ind) bt D Alonar (Ind) 4-0.

SPORTING OIGEST Stoke 4 Leeds D. Leegue Cup Group Orac Burnley 2 Oldmen 1. Auon lanurance Combi-nation First Division: Southermoton 1 Ameria 3. Specials leagues: Esponyol O Real Madrid (Part (Reul 67, 89), Standings: 1 Real Madrid (P27, Pts52); 2 Barcelona (27-53).

on to Challenge four physics of the challman and honorary treasurer of the English Golf Union, has been elected as the Union's first honorary life member. Planders is president of Chevin Golf Club, where he has been a member for over 50 years.

Ice hockey

Nett: NY Ranges 5 San Jose 4 (ot); Toronto 4 Boston 2; Colorado 5 Vancouver 1.

SNOW REPORT - in association with Thomas Cook Ski Direct

Latest snow and weather reports from 180+ resorts in Europe and North America. Phone or fax: 0891 333 110 SKISNAPSHOT

> 0897 500 601 SKIFAX Where to find the best snow - by tax. Call SKIFAX - the ski facts: 0897 300 301

wide:

SKICODES For a fax list of 180+ resort codes:

AROUND THE RESORTS SKI HOTLINE Pas de la Casa ...Wom lower down Soldeu/El Tarter ...Best on north-tacing runs ALISTRIA Spring snow conditions high up 80% 27.2 15 270 Changesole ... Hard base am; wer pm 90% 27.2 20 40 Unsettled At-a-glance fax guide to snow 100% 28.2 40 60 Marnly surrry conditions at 180+ resorts world 95% 27.2 100 265 Clear, surrry 95% 27.2 30 225 Surshine ...Best sking at Arc 2000 SWEDEN ...Generally firm packed snow 100% 25.2 7D 105 LINITED STATES

Call Ski Direct on 01733 33 55 14



Beardsley laid low by freak accident

Football

BY JOHN LICHFIELD AND ALAN NIXON

Newcastle went into last night's Uefa Cup quarter-final first leg against Monaco with Peter Beardsley on the bench after be was concussed in a training accident. With Alan Shearer. Faustino Asprilla and Les Ferdinand definitely out, the newscame as a further flow to Newcastle's chances of reaching the semi-finals.

Beardsley was concussed after being struck in the head by a fierce shot from a colleague during training yesterday.

The Newcastle manager.

Kenny Dalglish, said; "Peter is struggling. It happened when a player blasted the ball from close range into the side of his

David Ginola may have sealed his late as a Newcastle player by describing himself as "an orphan" at St James Park since the departure of Kevin Keegan, Speaking to the French newspaper Le Parisien before last night's game, Ginola complained that he had no relationship with Dalglish.

Ginola, who was in the start-ing line-up, said: "You could talk to Keegan. I have no desire to talk to Kenny Dalglish. I didn't come to Newcastle to play for him. I signed for one man: Keegan. He is gone and now I am an orpitan.

Ginola made it clear that he would like to return to play in France. He showed little interest in returning to his old club. Paris S1-Germain, however.

*When you have a passionale affair with a woman and then you leave her, you can never start the same love story all over again," Ginola mused. He hinted strongly that he would prefer to play for Marseilles, his wife's home town club, which is seeking to rebuild after the bribery scandals of the years when Bernard Tupie was in charge. "It is a friendly club, amhitious, exciting... Everything is ready to go back on the boil. Ginola added.

Everton's unpredictable striker, Duncan Ferguson, is a surprise £5m target for Aston Villa. The Villa manager. Brian Little, and his assistant, out of the country on holiday.

Allan Evans, watched the enigmatie Scot in action at the weekend and have made an approach to Everton about him. Ferguson has had a mixed season at Everton, scoring some spectacular goals but turning in

some poor displays, too. His manager, Joe Royle, could be persuaded to sell, especially at a profit, but the only problem is the timing of the deal with Everton still under the threat of relegation. Royle's transfer targets are Manchester United's Andy Cole and Liver-

pool's Stan Collymore. West Ham's 18-year-old central defender, Rio Ferdinand, has signed a five-year contract with the club that ties him to Upton Park until June 2002.

Ferdinand, a cousin of the Newcastle and England striker Les Ferdinand, had two years left on his present deal but was keen to sign an extension de-spite speculation linking him with other clubs.

The Derby County manager, Jim Smith, is trying to sign two Costa Rican internationals. Smith played the midfielder Mauricio Solis and the striker Paulo Wanchope in a reserve game yesterday and is keen 10 sign the pair. Both Solis and Wanchope have enough caps to obtain work permits.

Middlesbrough are prepared to receive offers for the former Manchester United goalkeeper Gary Walsh. The 29-year-old is no longer the first choice at the Riverside Stadium follow-ing the £1.25m signing of the Australian international Mark Schwarzer from Bradford City.

Wolves have appointed the former Southampton manager Dave Merrington as their new chief scout. Merrington was sacked by the Saints last summer after serving in various capacities for more than a decade.

Talks aimed at ending Brigh-

ton's power struggle have been put back until next week. Bill Archer and Greg Stanley, the co-owners of Third Division's hottom club, were due to have a fourth meeting with the leader of a proposed takeover con-sortium. Dick Knight, and mediators from the Centre for Dispute Resolution in London tomorrow. But the talks have been delayed because Krught is

Australians take South Africans' scalp.



.as Beefy's bonce is laid bare by the barber



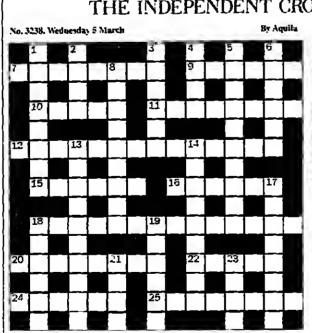




The Australians celebrate after Jacques Kallis is bowled by Shane Warne on the final day of the first Test against South Africa in Johannesburg yesterday. Australia's victory by an innings and 196 runs might have made lan Botham's hair stand on end had he not had it all shaved off during England's defeat in Wellington yesterday. Botham's hair raised NZ\$100,000 (£43,000) for the Child Cancer Foundation

Reports, page 27; Main photograph, Mike Hewitt/Allsport, Botham photographs, Chris Turvey/Empics

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS 7 Adverse aspect of county

9 Native Australians slow to pocket litter? (6) 10 Lower form of goad (5) 11 Present party people (8) 12 Novel of Wodehouse, we

hear, in America (5.4.5) 15 A means of spreading (ar (6) 16 A second Lincoln reversal -— it has only one cell the 18 Light from the cast (7.7)

20 When royal egg is cooked, it 22 Shots of colossal volume (5) 24 Salesman with distinctive

manner to make good (6) 25 Fresh in water off Cowes (8)

Cascades from rift in high Recognize key leader at this time? (4) 3 Models change position? Hardly ever! (b)
4 Fell lamily presented to soci-

ety (4) 5 This antelope is an affable-Desert colour (b) Uncomfortable and queum

while resting (3-2-4) 13 Lad meaning to become a star actor (7-3) 14 Pair of drawers with only one

swinging leg? (9) 17 Atmosphere endured while flying (8) 18 Tea licence required in Swiss

Cottage, we hear (6) 19 Something that covers scanner in orbit? (6) 21 Dismiss side in Roses march

23 Composer found in concert-

Obtainshed by Newspaper Publishing PLC, J. Canada Square, Canary Whort, London E14 SDL and ponted at Micros Solver Food. Sci.

Injured Benazzi could miss French finale

Rugby Union

France are facing the prospect of having to play their decisive Five Nations' Championship match against Scotland without their captain. Abdelatif Benazzi, and may be forced to a

reorganise their back row. The French captain, who sustained a rib injury last Saturday while helping his side to secure their first victory over decade, has been unable to train with his club, Agen, this week and he now faces a struggle to be fit in time to face the Scots at the Parc des Princes on

As France prepare for their attempt to complete their first Grand Slam in 10 years, they also have fears for the fitness of their No 8. Fabien Pelous. He is nursing an injured right hip and is also doubtful. If neither he nor Benazzi recovers, only Olivier Magne of the trio who provided the power behind the pack at Twickenham would line up in Paris.

By contrast, the Scots were able vesterday to name the same players who steamfollered Ireland at Murrayfield on Saturday. It is the first time since their campaign by surrendering last season's campaign that the to Ireland in Cardiff after taking Scots have kept the same side for successive games, and their team manager. Arthur Hastie. described vesterday's selection contending with an injury list that meeting as "basically a rubber meant he began the build-up for stamp job".

Their coach, Richie Dixon, though pointed out that Scotland have done their best to achieve a degree of consistency in selection this season. "The team has been fairly stable apart from the midfield," he said.

should keep the same forwards that played against England for the Irish match. Against Ireland. the midfield blend was what we hoped for. The players should now have gained confidence."

They will need plenty of that. France are a hit of a Jekyll and Hyde team. They changed their pattern of play when they went 20-6 down against England. Then they played in a similar style to our game," Dixon said. France are dangerous when England at Twickenham for a they flow and go. There is no team like them when they are playing with confidence. But we have a core of players who played against France in the last two Five Nations matches and in the World Cup game in

> The scenario England will be looking for is a crushing victory over Wales in Cardiff, while the Scots cause an upset in Paris. The first part of that combination, which could hring England the title on points difference, would seem, on the face of it. to look more likely than it was when the Welsh put up a vastly improved performance in

losing in France. The Wales coach, Kevin Bowring, whose side won at Murrayfield but undermined an early lead, will wait "until the very last moment" to decide on his team to face England. His is the England game without 10 of the side who finished the last

game against France.
The Richmond duo of Allan Bateman and Scott Quinnell missed the session because of a clash with club duties, but the rest of the absentees - David "We took the view that we Young Christian Loader, Mark

Rowley, Craig Quinnell, Robert Howley, Arwel Thomas, Scott Gibbs and Ieuan Evans - were due to injury. In addition to the walking wounded, the squad props. Andrew Lewis (broken ribs) and Lydon Mustoe (knee

operation), also add to Bowring's injury problems. "I'm a little bit worried about Arwel's knee and we don't really know about Dai Young's ankle at the moment, Bowring said, "I think we will announce a squad of 23 on Thursday and then give the injured players as long as possible to recover for the game be-fore finalising the side.

'I wouldn't mind waiting until 3pm on the day of the game hefore deciding, as long as I'm able to work with other squad members in the meantime."

Paul Arnold, the Swansea lock, and Alan Phillips, the Ebbw Vale prop. have been drafted into the squad and Arnold could be in line for a recall to combat the English line-

SCOTLAND: R Shesherd (Melcose): A Stanger (Hewick), A Tait (Newcastle), G Townsead (Northampton), K Logan (Striffing County): C Clastiners (Melcose): B Redgath (Melcose): T Smith (Matsonians), G Ellis (Cur-1. M Stammart (Roctinamptoru, G Weier 1970), A Stamod (Wasos), F Weier 19tschares, capt), P Walton (Newca 19th (Mosaley), Replacements: G G 19th (Wasoniama), G 19th (Wasoniama), G 19th (Wasoniama), G

their Swalec Cup quarter-final against Neath at The Gnoll for a week as Scott Gibbs and Col-in Charvis will be away with the Wales squad competing in the Hong Kong Sevens. Welsh Rugby Union rules allow clubs with two or more players absent on international duty to postpone League or Cup matches, which could lead to two more of the quarter-finals on 22 March be-

Deposit Box



Prevention is better than cure, as they say. Although what the cure is for lost data, we're not sure."

Which is why Hewlett-Packard has teamed-up with storage grant EMCInc. to offer one of the industry's most secure and high performance data; protection solutions.

MorseData is now helping some of the UK's largest corporations to implement a range of highly resilient, multi-host and network based storage systems

The starting point is to call us for our Inteligent Storage Executive Briefing or arrange to meet one of our consultants.



Back results available from Historic Newspapers 01959 545777